

# Transition Sooke Monthly Meeting

## Minutes

12 July 2023, 6:45 p.m.  
VIRL Sooke Branch and Zoom

Attending: Alan, Allie, Carol, David, Diana, Jo, Levi, Lily, Sinclair, Susan B, Susan C  
Facilitator: Alan  
Note-taker: Allie

1. Greeting, territorial acknowledgement, check-in
2. Agenda review
3. Minutes of June 14 meeting
  - a) Adoption moved by David, seconded by Susan C. Passed
4. Treasurer's Report (Lily)
  - a) David is now acting as Treasurer for ZWS
  - b) Adoption of Treasurer's Report (attached): moved by Lily, seconded by David. Passed
5. Reports on Action Items:
  - a) Susan and Kief to make a presentation on the Zero Carbon Step Code
    - i. the Zero Carbon Step Code is an emissions step code; different municipalities will adopt a level (based on certain specifications of electrification, basically) for builders to have to include in their designs before they get permits. The previous code did not account for greenhouse gases at all, so the province has finally come up with this one. Level 3 is where municipalities are more or less supposed to be at. Level 4 indicates that hot water heating is all electrified (as well as cooking, space heating, etc.). Victoria and Saanich have committed to Level 4 (the highest level). After a certain date, builders can't put NG or any fossil fuels into new builds; the code doesn't actually say that, but specifies that if a building design creates certain amount of GHG, it won't be approved for a permit. The CRD is apparently going to adopt Level 3. In the end, building operating costs will be lower at Level 4; Oak Bay, View Royal etc. have had presentations around the benefits of going straight to Level 4, but there is no chance Sooke Council will go to 4 if CRD is only doing Level 3.
  - ii. Action item: Susan C will circulate Kief's letter.**
  - b) Susan C will contact the Parks group and Paula and Jo will contact the rest of the groups to find out what they have been doing since the Forum
    - i. Susan C talked to Gord about the Parks group, which is going ahead: they have a board, are forming a non-profit, and are looking for money from the District to do an inventory of parks in the area. Bringing together JdF with Sooke itself. Levi wondered whether the Parks

group's knowledge could assist with finding a location for community garden space. **Action item: Alan or Susan will send Sid and/or Gord's contact info to Levi.**

ii. Jo emailed Lorrie Beauchamp (tiny homes): Lorrie's survey got 25 responses and now things are at a bit of a standstill. She is waiting on two people who know possible land owners, and is hoping to visit a tiny home community on Texada Island. **Action item: Jo will send Lorrie's update to Susan B for the newsletter.**

iii. Jo also contacted Anna Russell (Community Development Commission): Anna says she hasn't done anything on this since the forum. She was not necessarily planning on taking this on, but just wanted to introduce the idea and see who was interested (which was a number of people). She's considering if she should ask the interested folks if they want to do something about it without her in the lead.

c) Alan to send email to all with list of small groups from forum

i. Done

d) Susan B to put something in the newsletter looking for people to help plan forums

i. Done

e) Levi, ZWS and others? to coordinate regarding DOS grants available through the Climate Action Seed Funding Program. Deadline is June 30

Done. Grants approved by the members:

The District of Sooke is offering grants for Climate Action Seed Funding. Transition Sooke is preparing a proposal by the Zero Waste Sooke working group for swaps and repair cafes.

Passed

The District of Sooke is offering grants for Climate Action Seed Funding. Transition Sooke is preparing a proposal by the newly formed agriculture and food working group (tentative name) for a community garden. Passed

f) Bernie will share a summary of the SRCHN event at the July monthly meeting in July

i. Bernie not present

g) Everyone should get involved in the Sooke Community Investment Co-op, the group that hopes to take over the Stick.

i. Contact Bernie

ii. \$30 for membership, \$500/investment share

## 6. Working Group reports:

a) **Fundraising** (Lily)

i. Had thought about sending out a general ask for donations from members, but decided that summer wasn't the best time; will do this later on in the year.

ii. An account was set up for TS at the Bottle Depot. However, Sooke Transition House also has an account, which name sounds so similar that anyone who tried to donate to TS wound up having all their money accidentally given to STH, so no money has been raised this way for TS. The manager recommends to avoid confusion that from now on people just specify "Account number 39" when they want to donate to TS!

b) **Zero Waste Sooke** (Carol in lieu of Paula)

i. Grants applied for (via email decision-making process)

ii. At the last meeting:

1. There was a summary done of the past year
2. Community clean-up: lower attendance than in the past
3. EMCS Lunch and Learn (summarized at previous monthly meeting) **Action item: David will talk to the EMCS principal re: recycling; making it easier for it to happen, what happens to it from an institution rather than a home, etc.**

c) **OCP/Climate** (Susan B)

- i. Follow-up report from June 26 Committee of the Whole meeting about the OCP
  1. The meeting was well-attended, particularly with a lot of people upset about rumours to do with waterfront property.
  2. Regular Council meeting upcoming on Monday (at 1 p.m.)
  3. Council decided not to have another COW meeting on the OCP until October 3 (it was going to be next week) – for reasons including that by then they will have a CAO, and also the provincial legislation about housing density will have been announced.
  4. The OCP has a lot of important groundwork for climate action applied to development, and ensuring that zero-carbon homes get built and densities in certain areas are sufficient to allow non-vehicle traffic to be the mode of choice. It's important to write letters to the editor and to Council supporting it and countering the noisy naysayers.
  5. Sooke Builders Association wants to talk to Transition Sooke.

d) **Sustainable Food Security and Agriculture** (Levi)

- i. Levi is looking to kick off this new working group, coming out of the community action workshop in 2019 that identified this as a key pillar.
- ii. Looked at grant application opportunities.
- iii. First meeting Wednesday July 19 at 7 p.m. (over Zoom). Newsletter will include a blurb about the group and meeting info (already emailed as well to active members)
- iv. First initiative: a second community garden, preferably within the core of Sooke. There is only Sunriver right now, which is fully subscribed.
- v. **Action item: Alan will make the Zoom link for the first meeting and send it to Levi.**
- vi. Levi's letter re: looking for land is being brought to council by Jeff Bateman to next Monday 17 July's council meeting (re: Climate Action Seed Funding Program). You can go to the DOS website and click on Calendar to find all the materials. Levi will try to be present, and has emailed active members to ask for support. **Action item: Levi will email to thank Jeff Bateman.**

7. Climate angst (Allie)

- a) Thankful for the TS public forum in March, which helped put together a decent list of email addresses of people who are interested in meeting around the topic of climate grief/pain/rage etc.!
- b) We've met about five times since then at Allie's home; attempting to meet twice a month, once on a weekday evening and once on a weekend afternoon.

- c) As well as the occasional Work That Reconnects practice, there has been a lot of resource-recommending, book-sharing, discussion, some poetry and music, and a little bit of brainstorming around future possibilities.
- d) This month's gatherings: Wednesday July 26 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday July 29 at 2:00 p.m. Email [wtrsooke@gmail.com](mailto:wtrsooke@gmail.com) for address.

#### 8. WE-CAN (Lily)

- a) WE-CAN is organizing next big Climate Action Provincial Assembly (CAPA) for September 16; there are 245 groups working in B.C. in climate action who are members. Opportunity for all those groups to be involved: workshops, speakers, networking, working together on different actions. Looking at solidarity of climate action/change networks with other progressive movements in BC: housing, anti-poverty; instead of being divided, trying to see how we can work in solidarity with each other.
- b) Lily is organizing a weekend retreat for the board in Sooke (12 board members plus one staff person). Nov 24-26. Looking for billets for that time for a couple of board members. Also an opportunity for TS to meet with the board.

#### 9. SI-CAN (Susan C)

- a) Zero Carbon Step Code is being taken to individual municipal councils.
  - i. being talked about at July 17 DOS meeting (zoning and building bylaws) – 1 p.m.
- b) Sue Big Oil
- c) In North Saanich, they threw out their OCP (very divided situation there too, re: preserving agricultural land, pushing back against expansion; consultant quit!).

#### 10. 606 Water

- a) Has been asked to do a talk for the Garden Club.
- b) **Action item: Jo will ask if they want their newsletters shared with the TS active member list.**
- c) CBC call-in program, Chris called in for a few minutes and talked about it on the radio (drought & water restrictions theme).
- d) Did a pop-up table/tent at entrance to Sunriver and got to speak to a lot of residents.

#### 11. Farewell potluck for George and Isaline on June 17

- a) A wonderfully intimate event. Up in Bowser now, going to work on an 'Earthship' (house made of trash). Came to Sooke in the first place because of TS!

#### 12. Grant proposals decisions: repair cafés and swaps; community gardens

- a) When does council meet to decide?

#### 13. Sinclair's announcement

- a) Attended a public meeting in Metchosin about a month ago ([standearth.com](http://standearth.com)); mentioned that they surveyed 60 different old-growth sites and 52 are still being actively logged. Government

recommendations are not being implemented. Elders for Ancient Forests are trying to put together a protest outside various offices on Thursday September 14. Mitzi Dean's office, Ravi Parmar's office, etc.

14. We need more monthly meeting facilitators

- a) Susan B to return in September, Bernie busy with SCIC stuff, Gord will consider in September.

15. August 9 meeting?

- a) Proposal to not have an August meeting. Next meeting decided: September 13.

16. Forum evaluations

- a) Everyone wanted another forum, but we can't find enough committee members to plan another one. Maybe in wintertime? Theme: food security? If anyone wants to help organize, talk to Alan.

17. Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

## TRANSITION SOOKE TREASURER'S REPORT

### For July 12, 2023 meeting

**Current Account Balances:**

Account Name	Balance
Coast Community Chequing (100)	\$1,281.21**
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$1,595.77
Special Events (103)	\$0

**Details:**

**Coast Community Chequing (Account #100)**

Opening Balance (June 1 2023): \$ 1,181.21

**Income:**

Donation from Diana and Don Gallivan: +\$100.00

**No Expenditures**

**Balance: \$1,281.21**

**\*\*Accounts Payable:**

\$300.00 set aside in the bank account, only to be used for next year's Art Contest.

\$100.00 set aside in the bank account, only to be used for a future "Youth Activity."

Amount available for expenditures: **\$881.21** (\$1,281.21 currently in the bank minus \$400.00 set aside for Art Contest and Youth Activity).

**Zero Waste Sooke (Account #102)**

Opening Balance (June 1, 2023):	\$1,364.10
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**Income:**

Community Grant from District of Sooke \$750.00	+\$750.00
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**Expenses:**

Sooke News Mirror Ad for Clean-up Day	-\$518.33
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<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,595.77</b>
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