

## **Minutes Transition Sooke Monthly Meeting**

Sept. 11, 2024 Sooke Harbour Co-Housing Meeting Room

Participants: 16

Facilitator: Alan Dolan

Minutes: Lily Mah-Sen

### **1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Introductions**

### **2. Agenda:** agreed to as circulated

### **3. Minutes from July 2024 Transition Sooke Monthly Meeting:**

M/S Paula/David Mallett: “to approve minutes as circulated.” Motion Passed.

**4. Treasurer’s Report:** Lily presented the Treasurer’s report. Lily has filed Transition Sooke’s 2022-2023 Income Tax return with CRA. (As a registered non-profit society, Transition Sooke is exempt from having to pay business income taxes, but we must file a yearly return nevertheless.)

M/S Sinclair/David Merner; “to accept September 2024 Treasurer’s Report as circulated.” Motion Passed

**5. Guest Speaker: Patricia Dijak** on “Local Planning/Natural Asset Management and Nature-based Solutions.” Patricia spoke about the need to find nature-based solutions which will not damage our region’s biodiversity while responding to BC’s current housing affordability crisis. The BC government told municipalities they had to change their zoning bylaws by June 30, 2024, to increase small-scale, multi-unit housing as mandated in Bill 44. The Bill states that Municipalities need not hold public consultations on new housing proposals if the proposed plans met the policies and guidelines as stated in the municipalities’ OCP (Official Community Plan). Moreover, municipalities had until December 2025 to update their OCPs accordingly. (Update: Sooke had asked for an exemption to Bill 44; but this has since been denied.)

What does this mean for Transition Sooke? Our OCP committee, which was very active in 2022-2023 during the months leading to the finalization of the OCP (we took part in numerous consultations as well as critiqued drafts) had gone into a hiatus while we waited for DoS to complete the community consultation phase before the District Council voted on accepting the new OCP. Now, it’s back to the drawing board, as we will want to ensure that the OCP gives adequate protection to biodiversity in responding both to the housing and climate crisis in the Sooke region.

*Action: Transition Sooke’s OCP committee to discuss plans.*

**6. All Candidate’s Debate:** For the past few elections (municipal, provincial, and national), Transition Sooke has organized an all-candidate debate in the Sooke Community

Hall (often using the Speed Dating technique). Should we hold a debate for this fall's provincial elections? As our newly formed electoral district is wide-spread covering the Malahat and Cowichan valley all the way to Metchosin, we agreed that the debate could be better on-line and live-streamed rather than an in-person one. A small group volunteered to work on this: *Paula, David Merner, Alan.*

**7. Transition Sooke Policy on our organization's involvement in party politics.** Should Transition Sooke, as an organization, be able to endorse a political party or engage in partisan party politics? The latest Transition Sooke newsletter included a promotion on a Green Party event. We agreed that, in the name of fairness, the other 2 parties be invited to submit a written statement to the next edition of our newsletter if they so wish.

Points raised:

\*Transition Sooke needs to be seen as objective and neutral

\*On the other hand, we are "political" in that we take a political stand to advocate for policies and practices that ensure the health and well-being of our community and the people of Sooke

*Paula and David Merner* offered to discuss the issue and bring back a policy recommendation for Transition Sooke to our next monthly meeting.

**8. New meeting space:** We will not be able to use the meeting room at Harbourside Co-housing on the second Wednesday of each month. We could go back to meeting at the library. Unfortunately, the library meeting space is not available 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed in October or November. Jo booked the space for December. A possibility is to shift our meeting to Thursday nights at Harbourside (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month) for October and November; then back to the Library after this (Wednesday). Stay tuned as we work this out!

**9. Transition Sooke Strategy Meeting:** We agreed to hold a special Strategy Meeting in November to debrief our work to date and to build plans for the rest of the year. The *Steering Committee* is tasked with organizing this meeting.

## **10. Action Group Reports.**

**Steering Committee** met earlier this month. Recommendations on various issues have been expressed throughout this meeting.

**The Ella Stream Group.** Doris reported that the group is still waiting for various ministries to respond to their appeals to take decisive action against the housing developers for the environmental damage they caused to the stream. They have contacted West Coast Environmental Law as well as a prof from U of Vic for help.

**Sustainable Food Security and Agriculture:** Levi reported that the District of Sooke agreed to extend the Community Garden project funding until 2025 while work is being

done by DoS on a master plan for John Phillips Memorial Park (a potential site for a community garden). Meanwhile the group is looking at an opportunity to revive the community garden at the Sooke Child, Youth and Family Centre as well as look into a private site (Ayre Manor Lodge).

**Zero Waste Sooke's** next event is a Repair Café on Sunday Sept. 29 at the Community Hall. The library has been asked to house a dishes and cutlery loan cupboard. The group has accumulated a lot of roadside clean-up equipment which is available for free for anyone who can make good use of the tools.

**Climate Strategy:** The Zero Carbon Step Code group (with guest presenters Jane Devonshire of SICAN and Jan Reay of CAPE) was on its way to the council meeting to make their presentation to Council to adopt Step 4 of the ZCSC only to find the meeting had been cancelled (so that the district staff could fully respond to the newly-discovered wildfire at Old Man Lake). The presentations have been rescheduled to the council meeting on October 21. The ZCSC group will send out notices to Transition Sooke members to attend the meeting in support of our presentation.

**Decolonizing our World View:** no report. Working on getting a very special film to be shown at the library.

**Transition Sooke Picnic:** enjoyed by those who attended.

**11. Community Groups.** No report from SICAN and WECAN (we were running out of time).

**Next Meeting: October 9.** Place to announced. Lily will be facilitating.

Meeting Adjourned.

Appendix:  
 TRANSITION SOOKE TREASURER'S REPORT  
 For Sept. 11, 2024 meeting

**Current Account Balances:**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Transition Sooke Core Funds (100)	\$1,372.44
Sooke Community Garden (101)	\$3,219.72
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$2,567.68
Special Events (103)	\$0

**Details:**

**Transition Sooke Core Funds (Account #100)**

Opening Balance	\$ 1,282.09
Income: Donation Jar Transition Sooke July Monthly Meeting: \$74.75	
Bottle Return	+ 90.35
	<u>\$15.60</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,372.44</b>

**Sooke Community Garden (Account #101):**

Opening Balance:	<b>\$ 3,219.72</b>
No Income or expenses in August	

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

Opening Balance	\$2,856.58
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**Income:**

**Expenses:**

Sooke News Mirror Ad Garden Tool Swap May 2024: \$144.45	
Sooke News Mirror School Supply Swap, Aug.2024: \$144.45	-\$ 288.90

<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,567.68</b>
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