

DRAFT Notes from Transition Sooke Monthly Meeting

Dec.11, 2024 Sooke Public Library 6:30-8:00 pm

Present: John, Alan (facilitator), David E, David and Carol M, Lynn, Chris, Jo, Keith, Lily, Susan C (notes)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Introductions
2. Agenda approved
3. Minutes from October 9, 2024. Moved/Seconded by John/David M: “to approve minutes as circulated.” Carried
4. Treasurer’s Report. Moved/Seconded by Lily/Keith: “to accept revised October 2024 November 2014 and December 2024 Treasurer’s report as circulated.” Carried.
5. Strategy Report: Lily gave a synopsis of the Strategy Meeting that was held on November 17, 2024 at Lily and Keith’s house. The detailed notes of this meeting have been circulated to all active members.

To Do: To look through the report, identify action items, and bring back to future meeting with lists of tasks that needs to be done. Lily and Alan

6. 2396 Mountain Heights Road. Concern was raised about the planned development of new housing subdivision by West Ridge Trails (Farrell Estates). Concerns raised include: size of the development and the impact on the environment and biodiversity as forests are cleared; impact on the watershed; increased GHGs emitted with more buildings, more cars, higher demand on carbon fuels to power household appliances; questions on whether Sooke’s current infrastructure could handle the increased needs by the resulting population growth.

West Ridge Trails will need to apply for re-zoning before it can proceed. Transition Sooke needs to carefully examine their plans. Which Transition Sooke group should take this on? We will ask the members of both the OCP Committee and the Climate Strategy group to discuss how best to handle this, as aspects will touch on the work of both of these committees.

7. Winter Solstice Event on Dec. 21. While Transition Sooke does not have adequate funds to donate to the event, a number of individuals in Transition Sooke have volunteered to help out.
8. Seasonal gathering at Anna and Chris Russell’s place: Sunday December 22, 1-4 pm. 2950 Michelson Road in Otter Point. Please RSVP directly to Anna (strategyanna@gmail.com). Final invitation email will be sent to all Active Members as well as special guests.

9. Meeting space for future Transition Sooke monthly meetings: Jo has booked the library for January, February, and March.
10. AGM: Tentative date: Thursday March 27, 2025. David Merner to look into possibility of booking meeting room at Harbourside Co-housing. Jo will book the library as a back-up.
11. Meeting with Capital Regional District (CRD) staff working on the CRD's Climate Action Strategy Plan. One of their goals is to support local climate action groups in the CRD in order to enhance climate focussed decision making across all CRD programs and services. As a first step, climate action staff is meeting with each climate action group in the CRD to get to know what each group is doing, what needs each group would have, and areas they would like more support from the CRD. Gord, Paula, and Lily met with CRD staff (by ZOOM) on behalf of Transition Sooke. The CRD Climate Action staff will be issuing a report summarizing their findings, which we will share with the Active Members of Transition Sooke.
12. Action Group Reports
 - i. Transition Sooke Steering Committee. This committee has not met recently. Please note that this committee only meets as needed, particularly when issues and decisions can be addressed at monthly meetings of all active members.
 - ii. Zero Waste Sooke. Decided on plans for 2025:
Swaps: Jan. 26 (supplies used by and for toddlers); Feb. 23 (yarn swap); May 25 (sports equipment swap); Aug. 17 and 24 (school supplies swap); Oct. 5 (costume swap); and Nov. 23 (holiday decorations swap). The next Repair Café will be held on January 19 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Sooke Community Hall.
 - iii. Sustainable Food Security and Agriculture Group: Continued strategizing on ensuring that the revised OCP will include a section on Community Gardens in Sooke; putting together a Letter of Agreement with the Sooke Family Resource Society for us to revive the community garden at Sooke Child, Youth and Family Centre on 6672 Wadams Way.

Issue to discuss: The Food and Agriculture group has met with the developers of West Ridge Trails, who plan on designating a sizeable piece of land for a community garden. Transition Sooke has a lot of questions about the development itself (see item 6 above). There needs to be a wider discussion to develop a coordinated strategy concerning West Ridge Trails. **Action: Alan and Levi to set up a meeting of all interested active members and members of the Sustainable Food Security and Agriculture Group to discuss how to address issues around this development.**

- iv. Climate Strategy Group. For the past year, this group has concentrated on advocacy activities to push the Sooke District Council to adopt Step 4 of the Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC). A major step in this process was the presentation to Council on November 25 with delegations by Jane Devonshire (SICAN), Jan Ray (CAPE) and Keifer Elliott. Many individual Transition Sooke members also spoke in favour of the ZCSC. The ask was for Council to direct District Staff to prepare a report, which would then be brought back to council in the new year to discuss and decide. The vote was defeated. Meanwhile, the district of Metchosin has just adopted Step 4 (8 out of the 11 municipalities in the CRD have gone this route.) Sooke seems to be the outlier. The Climate Strategy Group will regroup in January to figure out next steps. Perhaps concentrating more on mitigation strategies for now?
- v. OCP Group, which has been dormant, will need to swing back into action as Sooke, in accordance with Bill 44, will need to revise its OCP by December 2025. **Action: Susan Belford to call the previous members of the group about reconvening.**
- vi. Decolonizing our Worldview. Will be calling a meeting in the future.

13. Network Reports

- i. SICAN: Has been providing lots of support (information, advice, presentations to Councils) to CRD municipalities (including Transition Sooke) to help strategize and support our efforts to get District Council to pass Step 4 of ZCSC. Support given to members of Langford City Council on a robust Urban Forest Management Plan (which was recently passed by the council).
- ii. WE-CAN: Produced a short brochure to introduce new MLAs (and returning MLAs!) to Climate Change and what MLAs can do. This brochure was sent to all MLAs, with the hope that some of the newly elected MLAs would be interested in meeting with the more seasoned MLAs who have been involved in climate action. WE-CAN plans to feature Transition Sooke in one of its upcoming newsletters. Interested in being interviewed? Contact Lily

14. Roster of facilitators for future meetings: Alan, David Merner, Lily, Keith.... Others???

Meeting Adjourned.

TRANSITION SOOKE TREASURER'S REPORT
For December 11, 2024 Meeting

Current Account Balances:

Account Name	Balance
Transition Sooke Core Funds (100)	\$1,382.44
Sooke Community Garden (101)	\$3,219.72
Zero Waste Sooke (102)	\$2,069.37
Special Events (103)	\$0

Details:

Transition Sooke Core Funds (Account #100)

Opening Balance \$ 1,382.44

No transactions in November

Balance \$ 1,382.44

Sooke Community Garden (Account #101):

Opening Balance: \$ 3,219.72

No Income or expenses in November

Zero Waste Sooke (Account #102)

Opening Balance \$2,069.37

No income or expenses in November

Balance: \$2,069.37