

Report from the Strategic Planning Session.

Rob, Chris and Dan were members of the ad-hoc strategic planning committee (2020). They met at Dan's house from 7-9PM on Tuesday March 10, 2020. Rob provided a good overview of current initiatives and goals that we could work toward as a Society including the various working groups. We spent the time moving through the various goals and initiatives.

### **Membership Drive:**

Our current actual paid memberships are very low, only around 10 paid members so far this year even though membership on the AVTTS Facebook Group and email list is in the dozens.

Action/Recommendation: That the Society more actively encourage and campaign for members to sign up and pay the annual fee (\$20 recommended).

- Theresa Alemany is working on newly designed membership cards.
- We should put together a new AVTTS flyer that explains the Society, introduces the various working groups and initiatives, encourages input and participation, and explains membership and ways to contact.
- Consult at Vital Signs report ( [albernifoundation.ca/vital-signs](http://albernifoundation.ca/vital-signs) ) for recent statistics (for food security, community resilience statistics, climate initiatives, etc)

### **Tree Planting:**

It was discussed that an we could support the City's efforts to encourage tree planting by applying for Tree Canada grants as a community group and working with the City to augment what they are doing. It was suggested that Tim Pley would be the best City Staff person to contact with input from Councillor Poon as our Liaison.

Action/Recommendation: That the Society investigate grants from Tree Canada that could be used to partner with the City and augment their plans for street trees and tree planting in general.

Street Tree (re)planting program

- Tree Canada grants
- Can apply as individual, community, community group, etc
- ALL streets should have trees planted if none; replaced if dead or dying.
- Need to partner with City = must have short time-lines and quick turn-around

### **Active Transportation:**

It was discussed that biking, walking and transit should continue to be primary focuses of AVTTS through Cycle Alberni and all other avenues. Greater engagement will be sought with the City to recommend and influence street redesign and revitalization that encourages more active and low-carbon lifestyles and infrastructure. Expansion of transit as a way to support

low income residents and encourage community resilience should also be a key pathway to support this goal. In particular to encourage the building of more covered shelters at transit stops in the community

Action/Recommendation: That the Society work with the City, BC Transit and other stakeholders to promote walking, biking and transit use and to contact BC Transit to indicate our willingness to partner with them and promote expansion and improvement of transit in Port Alberni for all citizens.

### **Home Building**

We discussed the various super-efficient housing projects around town and the Island including the Passiv Haus and Net Zero House on Gertrude and near Alberni Elementary in particular, an Earth Ship in Bowser and a Regenerative Design (Living Building) workshop being held in Victoria

### **Food Hub and Island Health and ongoing Funding.**

We discussed, at length, the ongoing relationship with Island Health and our position as a Food Hub. We decided to discuss this further with the other Board members and the group as a whole to investigate how the Food Hub could be invigorated within Island Health's mandate to provide more concrete benefits to the region and to more closely align with the Society's goals.

What does a Food Hub look like with climate change? Can we leverage the partnership with Food Hub for other initiatives and granting opportunities?

Action/Recommendation: To start to pursue other avenues for the Society to receive consistent annual funding and to engage Island Health in initiatives that more directly improve food security and cooperation in the region.

### **Solar Power and Renewable Energy**

We talked about how to increase the installation of solar power and other renewable energies in the Alberni Valley with a shift and focus on existing installations to inspire and provide examples for others to imitate.

Action/Recommendation: To organize a presentation by people with solar power installations on their homes or businesses currently at a future AVTTS meeting/event

## **Bike Valet**

We discussed ways of ensuring the Bike Valet project gets off the ground. In the future we can look at promoting expanded and hardened bike racks around the City, lockable bike storage at key sites and businesses, promoting (and providing?) alarmed bike locks to prevent theft?

Action/Recommendation: That some pictures and promotional materials be created of the Bike Valet (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>) to then use to present and introduce to the City and other stakeholders when pitching use at upcoming events (Canada Day may be first, COVID-19 permitting)