

Alberni Valley Transition Town Society
Monthly Meeting – March 17, 2021 - 4 p.m. by Zoom
MINUTES

Present: Chris Alemany (Chair), Edna Cox, Mark Dawson, John Mayba, Charlene Patterson, Helen Poon, Dan Schubart, Amber Stroder (Alberni Aquarium board member), Lilly Woodbury (Surfrider Pacific Rim), Jim Wright

Chris opened the meeting at 6 p.m., acknowledging that we meet on the unceded lands of the Tseshaht and Hupacasath peoples. There was a round of introductions.

Approval of the agenda – Dan moved, John seconded. Carried.

Minutes of the previous meeting were tabled until next meeting. Edna will resend those minutes.

Ocean Friendly Community Project

Lilly outlined the mission of Surfrider, a global organization: the enjoyment and protection of the ocean and waves. Eradicating plastic, 70% of which comes from the fishing and aquaculture industries, has been a focus for the past few years. The goal is to ban one-use plastics; in Tofino and Ucluelet, to eliminate straws, bags, cutlery and poly take-away containers by 2022.

Surfrider is offering a mentorship program to support two Vancouver Island communities this year to take up the challenge of building public support. Telegraph Cove has signed on; Port Alberni is invited to do so. First steps: signing a partnership agreement with Surfrider; consultation to decide what the community wants to work on; setting goals. Lilly and John will compare notes about Port Alberni contacts who may be interested in joining a dedicated AVTTS sub-committee.

Food for Thought Virtual Summit

Carley and Edna attended sessions March 12-13. Brief notes are included in the March 16 Food Hub Committee minutes. When the recordings of the Summit become available, Edna will send them to the PA Transitions list.

Young Professionals of Port Alberni have decided to continue with the Dry Creek Community Garden, with a review in 6 – 12 months.

Upcoming Events

- “Be your Own Grocer” is a 12-week on line course through Transition Nanaimo and led by Connie Kuramoto, beginning soon.
- Grow Local Starter Packs will be ready for pick-up at Spirit Square Farmers’ Market on May 15. Volunteers will be needed.
- Candyse Roberts is offering, through Parks & Recreation, two series of workshops this Spring, one for adults and one for parents and children. See the Spring Leisure Guide for details.
- AV Seedy Saturday takes place on Facebook March 15 – April 15.
- Shelter Farm is offering CSA boxes.

Reports & Sub-groups

- Food Group --- Refer to the minutes of March 16th sent earlier today.
- Cycle Alberni --- The new City engineer, Rob Dickinson, is strong on active transportation and will meet every two weeks with the Alberni Climate Action Committee.
- Go By Bike Week is May 31 – June 6. Register on line. A joint event May 31 with the Hospice

Society is in the works.

- Watershed Protection – There will be a Forest March event at the bandstand in Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo on March 19 at 1 p.m. Edna will forward information.
- Alberni Climate Action Committee (John Mayba, Keith Wyton, Dan Schubart, Chris Alemany, Robert Gunn, Gail Morton) met today with MP Gord Johns.. The committee has been getting in touch with leaders at all levels of government.

Finances

Current balances: as published in the agenda for this meeting.

There was a request to explore the future of the Shaun Loney funds.

Other

- Coombs Country Candy has been sold to Community Futures and is being operated like a social enterprise with profits to help financing of local businesses.
- “What on Earth?”, a weekly CBC podcast, focusses on dealing with climate change.
- Seth Klein’s new book A Good War outlines needed government policies and actions to address climate change.
- The Annual General Meeting has been postponed until in person meetings are possible.
- Helen advised that the City is purchasing a hybrid fire engine and that Director of Development Scott Smith is managing the sale of City lands to encourage infill and to stop urban sprawl.
- John opined that the building code should add charging stations to the regulations for new multiple dwellings. He will research that question.

All business concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting - April 21, 2021 - 6 p.m.