

## Minutes of March 26, 2014 Gabriola Transportation Assn. Board Meeting

### Present:

Jim Ramsay – President & Secretary  
Randy Young – Vice-President  
André Lemieux – Treasurer  
Erik Andersen  
John Hodgkins

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

### 1. Minutes

Minutes of the November 14, 2013 meeting were approved as circulated.

### 2. Transit

- Jim reported that seating on the two Sprinters had to be reduced to 9 passengers due Passenger Transportation Act requirements that van seats have shoulder belts; but this has now been rectified and seating is being increased to 13 which will better meet the passenger loads, particularly for commuter runs.
- Schedule changes planned for April 28 when the new ferry schedule comes into effect will include adjusting the afternoon commuter runs so that the second Sprinter starts one sailing later and then meets the 18:10 ferry and delivers passengers around the Island; and mid-day run times will be set later to better straddle the middle of the day with primary emphasis on the Village rather than the ferry; addition of additional mid-day runs, first on Wednesdays and then on Fridays, will be introduced when sufficient additional drivers are available.
- John reported that there have not been any further meetings concerning the RDN's Transit Future Plan since November.

### 3. Roads

- As Ken Wur was unable to attend this meeting, a separate meeting will be held with him to gain further information about the Coast Road seal coating process for use elsewhere on the Island.
- The meeting between GTA and with MoTI was held on January 30, 2014 and covered a number of areas (see summary notes of meeting for details). Randy will follow up seeing if a private contractor will undertake the road sweeping that is still outstanding.

### 4. Ferry

- John reviewed the extensive process involved in dealing with BC Ferries that has resulted in a schedule change that meets their service reduction requirements but minimizes impact on shift workers and provides additional capacity in the busy summer period. John was thanked for all the efforts he personally--and the group which included elected officials, the Ferry Advisory Committee, the IT Transportation Advisory Commission, Chamber of Commerce and Arts Council--put forth.

- Many Islanders are looking for long-term alternatives to the existing BC Ferry Route 19 operation. One group favours building a bridge, and have formed the Gabriola Island Bridge Society, with an office to be located at the Twin Beaches Mall, and are seeking funding for a feasibility study. Randy noted that a review of property assessment rolls indicates a drop of \$75 million between 2011 and 2013. Also, MoTI will be asked to provide details of any existing study they may have concerning a bridge. Other options could include splitting off the minor routes from the BC Ferries major routes into a separate operation.
- The proposed catamaran passenger ferry from Nanaimo harbour to Vancouver harbour is still being developed, with Nanaimo City now agreeing to lease space at the former Gadd Marine site adjacent to the BC Ferry terminal in the harbour. It is understood they also have approval to use the SeaBus Terminal in Vancouver Harbour.

5. Other Transportation

- Randy reported that GaLTT is intending to upgrade certain trails to better suit cycling use. He hopes Arbutus Building Supplies will acquire a 3' wide bobcat that can be rented to place gravel on the trails.

6. Other Business

- Jim reported that Sustainable Gabriola and the Chamber of Commerce are continuing to work on the proposed framework for the Sustainable Village Core Planning Project. A public meeting is expected in mid-June. It was noted that ferry parking needs should be considered along with parking in the Village.
- An open house will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm at the Agi Hall to get public input on the off-road pedestrian/cycling trail planned for the Village area along North Road.
- The present and future role of GTA was again discussed. It was agreed GTA does provide a valuable resource as clearing house and think tank regarding a wide variety of transportation issues, even though many specific issues are handled by other organizations. The terms of reference for GTA need updating and will be reviewed prior to the AGM.
- AGM Plans: It was agreed the AGM should be held during the last week of May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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