

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

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Notes of Meeting of November 3, 2020

Co-facilitators: Shelagh Huston and David Lightly

Recorder: Jinny Hayes for Communication Team

Present: Bob Andrew, Deb Ferens, Sharma Ray Goldman, Melissa Nobles, Doug Scott, Don Smardon, Lino Vella-Gregory, K.Louise Vincent.

Next CCC meeting: December 1 at 7 pm on Zoom. Please use the same enduring link, which is good to August 2021.

Recorder for next meeting: Community Kitchen; January: Covenant Team

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Acknowledgement

David: Trust is essential to connecting across cultures; important to talk about past abuses; we have much to improve in learning how to repair trust with First Nations. Shelagh added our gratefulness for well-kept Snuneymuwx land; Deb thanked both for their ideas and suggest we might use the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Call to Action* recommendations, maybe addressing one per Council meeting.

ACTION: She will send to David, Shelagh and Jinny

2. Welcome and Check-Ins

3. Follow-up from previous meetings

A. Reminder that the Ad Hoc Council Review Group will be starting its work after the AGM. Teams have been invited to submit preferences, ideas, feedback, comments. This group can meet and discuss their mandate and process, and though Covid has certainly affected how Council is working, the group can address pertinent topics within broad parameters.

B. Council Co-Facilitation: Idea that maybe the co-facilitators could be drawn from the alphabetical team list (everyone takes a 6-month turn in order similar to how the Council Note-taking is assigned by team; 3-month overlaps for continuity). For teams' input.

C. Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society (GILSS) is seeking a Commons member to serve on its Board. There is someone from COV Team who is interested; do any other teams have a volunteer or recommendation? GILSS Purpose and Bylaws are attached to October Council Notes.

4. For Teams' discussion & follow-up at next Council meeting:

See A above. Input on the future of Council should go directly to one of: Louise Amuir, Bob Andrew, David Lightly, Mark Roch, Maya Ruggles

B & C – Same as above

20-minute Discussion Topic List

- Recognizing contributions to the Commons
- How do we orient people to the Commons?
- Covenant update; possibly in February
- Council Review TBA, as the ad hoc group input may take awhile
- Tree cutting (see below under Property Stewardship Report)

5. Team Reports:

Board of Trustees (Don)

- Two meetings in October have mainly dealt with the AGM; everyone will have to wear a mask, so Don tested and was heard well on Zoom with his mask in place. To date, 19 people have registered; 12 at Hall, 7 on Zoom. Nominations Committee (David and Jinny) have spoken with 24 prospective candidates in an effort to fill the 4-7 positions for this year; a difficulty encountered is that Commons membership is required, and only two of the so-far confirmed nominees are members. Trustees are working on a means to deal with this, perhaps by making appointments into vacant positions as allowed by the Bylaws.

ACTION: Everyone interested in the Commons should formally become members; a form will soon be available on the website (Jinny & Colleen McCarthy, web designer).

- PHC requested to use the big room upstairs in the farmhouse in order to assembler the Christmas Bureau boxes; space needed Dec 1-23; 2-3 people at any given time, using Covid precautions, PHC will be cleaning. This was approved. PHC also wanted to use this room on a weekly basis for PHC yoga program; this request was turned down due to Covid precaution challenges.

Q: Membership: advantages are voting at General Meetings and standing for elections as trustees.

Q: Clarification that the AGM is that of the Gabriola Commons Foundation, the Land Title holder and Financial Manager, and is therefore obliged to follow the Society Act requirements (voting, etc.).

Q: Concern re: appointments of Trustees post hoc; proposed that a motion be made at the AGM to ratify the other nominees when their memberships are completed. It's a good idea to avoid challenges at the AGM.

Bookings – No report

Communications (Jinny)

- Written report only due to time constraint:

We have not met in person again this month; the 3 of us are kinda lying Covid-low, and our period of amazing activity has cooled a bit.

Next in-person meeting: TBA.

1. Please have a look at the new website if you haven't already. It still is, and always will be, a work in progress. Please keep Jinny informed if you find glitches or have additions to recommend: vhayes@uvic.ca or communications@gabriolacommons.ca.

Team entries on the Volunteer page: those teams who have submitted mandates look really good; gives visitors & future volunteers an idea of where they can fit in. Please get us your mandate ASAP. Thank you.

Question: At present our team e.addresses forward mail from the website only – Would you like them to be set up to use in the regular way, ie sending as well as receiving?

2. Colleen is working on a separate membership form and Jinny is updating the Participation Form. Will bring these to Council.
3. Still looking for feedback particularly on our documents: *Talking about the Commons* (a Commons Messaging Guideline. We can't change what we don't know is needed. BTW, this is an internal document, not for the website; it helps us all "stay on message" about the Commons.
4. Jinny is working on content for a rack card design with Nola Johnson to replace our brochures; these will be good for Welcome Home Gabriola packages for new Gabriolans. Still looking for a volunteer to vet the content for this. Hands up.
5. BTW, there is still a template for use when taking Council Notes, recently revised, which Deb used very effectively in October and I will try to use for tonight's Notes. When it's your team's turn to be Note-taker, I can send that to you as a fillable form.

Community Kitchen Stewards – No report

Covenant (K. Louise)

- completed the Agricultural Land Commission Referral application and The Land

Conservancy of BC (preferred Covenant Holder) will evaluate this by end of Nov; after we get their comments, we'll submit to ALC.

- Team wants to formally present the Covenant and pertinent documents to Trustees and Council this Spring, eg, maybe Feb Council, about an hour.
 - We propose updating the ecological polygon information for the Baseline Report later in the Spring, possibly April to record any changes.
 - Emphasize that stewardship work can start, Covenant registered on Title or not.
 - Did discuss our input re: Council and have submitted this to the ad hoc group.
- Next Meeting: Nov 13 at 1 pm @ Timberframe or Workshop

Covid-19 Group - Not applicable (N/A) tonight.

Design Group – No report

Event Planning – No report

Farm Team (Judith per Deb)

- Written Report only due to time constraint:

The activities of the Farm Team throughout 2020 have been less affected by the COVID-19 virus than for many of the Commons teams since social distancing is a standard practice for gardeners, and meetings have been held outdoors and on-site during the Saturday workbees. Clearly the large-scale community events usually sponsored by the Farm Team, such as the Spring and Fall Fairs, could not take place and there is a sense of "waiting for it to pass" before engaging in new directions. Without the Wednesday market, the selling of produce and products has been reduced to a small scale "mini-market" on Saturday mornings; nevertheless the bumper crops of apples and blueberries have found buyers and there has been a run on the sauerkraut processed by Sharon Arnell! The orchard and gardens need to be weeded, watered and harvested no matter what, and the agricultural projects initiated over the years continue to be cared for. Volunteers are always welcome to participate.

The two community allotment projects on the Commons (North and South Gardens) and the satellite Commons community garden at Namaste are flourishing, with well-organized stewarding by gardeners.

Producing fresh apple juice with the press at the Commons continues to be appreciated by the community. We salute Christine Watt, apple juicer extraordinaire, who has taken care of the juicing over many years. She has had to withdraw for health reasons but has passed on the press to Betty Kehler formerly of Plumridge Farms. Our thanks to Christine and Betty for their commitment.

The 25,000 gallon reservoir is now completed and receiving the rainwater we've been waiting for to keep our crops healthy without jeopardizing the rich ecosystem of the Commons' pond. Many thanks to those in the community who helped fund and/or build the project.

A new community initiative, the Salish Sea Food Resiliency group, has been formed, with a focus on agricultural issues and ventures across the Gulf Islands. The Commons has been invited to provide a member to liaise with the new group.

Namaste Gardens N/A

North Gardens N/A

South Gardens (Doug)

- South Gardens: no meetings so no real report. Federal Infrastructure Grants will be coming due soon so would like to commence discussion of the partnership with PHC re: irrigation infrastructure; seeking Council OK to go forward with this.
- Finance and Grant Writing Teams are good groups to start looking into the grant's appropriateness for South Gardens use of monies. Maybe should not enter this discussion at Council at this time, as the implications are complicated and need some additional research, eg, involved new Trustees, Finance Team, Legal Lease with PHC, so infrastructure space needs to be discussed through these lenses. Dialogue of partnership outside the lease is illegal. "Keeping it off the Commons books" is not an acceptable solution; think Charitable Status. David reminds us the relationship with PHC is underneath this; need to look more closely at this. Could use a Six Hats process; he will come forward with a new proposal. Let's avoid polarizations. Noted that the Commons has many partnerships with community groups and other non-profit organizations.

Finance – No Report; full year-end Financial Report will be made at the AGM on Thursday, Nov. 5

Grant Writing – No Report

Infrastructure – No Report

Labyrinth – No Report

Learning Opportunities – No Report

Long Range Planning (Deb)

Report was not possible due to limited time, even though there is an exciting announcement. Will present at the next Council meeting.

Property Stewardship (Bob)

- No regular meeting; members meet during workbees. Lino has joined.
- Reservoir electrics are being set up this week. Will be hooked up but not live until the recipient services are set up. Yurt personnel and Ron the electrician to consult. Thanks to everyone who's contributed. Noted that power keeps going out at the Yurt with the temporary hook ups, but this is temporary and will be overcome by the completed electrical work.
- Access to Kitchen for PHC has been improved by opening a restricted access approach to the CK.
- Propane tank access OK now.
- Gutters on workshop and goat barn now filling the reservoir!
- Wifi to the Yurt. Will have to go into Goat Barn, but details are the responsibility of Poetry Gabriola Society with consultation with PST; wifi will open some possibilities for future uses of the yurt such as live streaming, etc.

ACTION: should go to Share the Commons Team.

- SharmaRay raised concern about cutting trees, 2 in particular, and is exploring how such decisions are made, and if proposed cuttings can be saved. PST Response: Lots of discussion without decision. This came up at Design Group meeting last week in relation to sound emanating from new reservoir stage; there are pros and cons re cutting any trees. Important to find the existing tree policy; ACTION: Bob is seeking this and will propose a new policy if the existing one cannot be found.
- However we proceed, should be slow, mindful, and carefully seeking everyone's voice, including honouring the trees. Everyone's voices should be heard.
- Q. Who makes these decisions? If new policy, these beautiful ideas should be captured in any new policy.
- Q. Can there be a moratorium until there's a new policy? A. Council is not the body to make this recommendation. PST can collect the ideas and bring recommendations.

ACTION: SharmaRay could map out some starting ideas for PST.

- Next Meeting: Saturday workbee

Share the Commons – No Report

The Process Team – No Report

Timberframe – No Report

Trails and Green Spaces – No Report

Workshop and Pottery – No Report

6. Affiliate Reports

GERTIE – No Report

People for a Healthy Community (Brenda Fowler)

- Brenda had trouble with her Zoom connection but sent thanks by e.mail to the Trustees for their action on use of the House for the Christmas Bureau package assembly.

Poetry Gabriola (Melissa Nobels)

- See report in Property Stewardship, above.

Tool Library – No Report

7. Additional Items Arising:

8. Closing (Shelagh)

Appreciation to attendance and careful listening. Better time keeping will be attended to at next Council. Teams that were not able to report to be given priority at next Council Meeting (Communications, Farm Long Range Planning).