

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of Meeting of May 4, 2021

Co-facilitator: Bob Andrew, Volunteer (ie, not representing a team)

Recorder: Judith Roux for Infrastructure Team

Present: Deb Ferens, Jinny Hayes, Maya Ruggles, Dave Lightly, Don Smardon, Diane Streeter (Tool Library), Brenda Fowler (PHC)

Next CCC meeting: Tuesday, June 1st at 7 pm on Zoom OR in person outdoors (TBA).

Facilitator for next meeting: Deb Ferens for Finance

Recorder for next meeting: Learning Opportunities

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Acknowledgement

Bob acknowledged that we are meeting on the territory of the First Nations. Deb reminded the assembled members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, to be read consistently each Council. This wasn't possible this month. Dave expressed a wish to try to get closer to the powerful issues such as colonialism, racism, and sovereignty. Bob and Maya agreed that we need to bring these issues closer to the Gabriola Commons and engage in meaningful conversations about the structures underlying current systems.

2. Welcome & Agenda

3. From Teams' discussions & follow-up

A. Facilitator Guide (circulated with call to the April CCC Meeting)

- Reminder to teams to feedback on any questions or comments to the Guide. Bob found it useful; there is a need for facilitator training.
- See Attachment 1, below.

B. Tree Cutting Policy

- A potential 20-minute discussion topic?
- Tabled

C. Council Review

- No report yet.
- This will hopefully lead to a 20 minute discussion at June Council.

D. Smart meters

- Question: do we continue with current system (radio-off) which costs \$20 each for 2 each monthly? See Trustees' report, below

4. Team Reports:

Board of Trustees (Don)

The Trustees last met the 20 April, 2021

MOUs

The MOUs with The Tool Library and The Lions have been completed and signed. The MOU with Poetry Gabriola Society is being negotiated and should be completed this month (May).

The Cultivate MOU is being negotiated for July 1-4, 2021.

e-Transfers – At the request of the Kitchen Stewards, the Trustees have approved the use of Interac e-Transfers for kitchen rental payments. This is in the setup stage and the Finance Team intends to go slowly with the introduction. This will only involve the Community Kitchen.

Hydro Meters - We have received a request from the Property Stewardship Team to request BC Hydro change the Workshop and the Farmhouse meters to “Radio On”. This will allow us (PST & Finance) to have better control over recovering Hydro costs from renters and MOU holders, as well as monitoring our own usage.

- We presently pay \$20/month/meter to have the meters off. To pay for this change there would be a onetime fee of \$55/meter.

- The Trustees do not have a position regarding this request. We ask that you take this to your teams for discussion and report back to June Council. Jinny, would you please include this as an agenda item?

Next Meeting: 20 May at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Communications Trustees (Jinny)

- Jinny reviewed the use statistics for the new website, which are up >500%!
- She has been contacting all Team reps to make sure they are receiving the CCC Notes when they go out by e.mail and are sending them on to their team members.
- Maya noted that no CCC Notes have been posted to the website since July 2020; Action: Jinny will check and post them all (she admitted to falling 4 months behind). {Ed Note: This has been rectified.]
- Next meeting: TBA

Covenant Team (Deb)

- Reminder that a Referral application has gone in to the Agricultural Land Commission; we are waiting for their response to our request to place a conservation covenant on the

Commons. The ALC review committee meeting was to be held in April.

- The Team is currently working on a draft proposal to bring to Council (next meeting) on the idea of using a stewardship approach to Commons work, ie, focusing around our Ecological, Agricultural and Multipurpose purposes. We'll be looking at a relationship with the land and the community through a Stewardship Centre, keeping in mind the idea of the GES/Elder Space proposal; see LOT Report.
- A new society is being birthed: "Cascadia Commons Trust" with the objective of assisting to preserve and protect land and ecosystems held under community stewardship; one aim is to possibly becoming designated to hold covenants for community commons, etc.
- Next meeting: Wednesday May 11 at 3 pm outdoors on George's deck

Covid-19 Group (Jinny)

- Met last week. We are currently still formally in Phase 3 restrictions, but Bonnie Henry has not used this phrase for some time. Recent changes in precautions have not required changes to Commons practices.
- We continue to welcome the community to the outdoor spaces without booking or fees and on a first-come/first serve & use-at-your-own-risk basis. The Timber Frame is considered an outdoor space.
- We also discussed a proposal by Mitch to construct more picnic tables to facilitate gatherings with optimal spacing; hoping to work with financing from Events Team. Intention is to build about 6 picnic tables, starting with 2-3. Discussion: Those attending Council were generally supportive but would like the Events Team to make one or more tables handicapped accessible, make up proposed budget, and prepare a more detailed report for Council.
- Next meeting: TBA

Design Group (Bob)

- Working on finishing pump house near reservoir with insulation and snazzy design.
- Next meeting: Saturday May 8 at 1 pm

Farm Team (Judith)

- Busy times: weeding, watering and planting - new asparagus and blueberries, caring for new fig orchard. Thanks to Betty and Kim for helping to increase yields.
- All allotment gardens are fully occupied
- FMT meetings occur every Saturday morning during work bees.

Finance (Maya)

- Question re: allocation of the \$4,000 posted to Commons from Nesters; was it to cover costs of the Reservoir project? Seems that Nesters may not now be requiring proposals with named projects for funds from patrons' donated MyNR points.
- Year-end financial details needed from teams for the report in July.

- Next Council will bring forward recommendations for re-allocation of restricted funds where appropriate.
- Legacy fund, part of the \$21,0000 donation from AGES, has been placed in a separate savings account until a decision is made about how to grow this.

Learning Opportunities Team (Maya)

Present at our last meeting: Deb, Jocelyn, Maya; not present but wants to stay in the loop: Monica

We met via Zoom and had a really full and exciting conversation. We focused mostly on the idea of an Elder's Space on the Commons, which was brought forward at the March 2020 Council meeting by Jocelyn, Mark, and Kate.

Jocelyn told us about some of the deep learning that is going on with the research team of the GES/SFU project, with Elder Bill White providing guidance. Bill has already offered some advice on how to start thinking about an Elders' Space. For this report, we decided to share these 4 things:

1. As a first tangible step, we'll be gathering materials that can be stored electronically (and hopefully hard copy in the future – yes, a library!), starting with materials shared by Elder Bill White and other S'nuneymuxw teachings.
2. We're excited to be exploring this relationship, and engaging an ongoing intention to learn, as today's Stewards, how to respectfully and appropriately welcome S'nuneymuxw into the Commons.
3. We are hoping to meet with the Covenant and Long Range Planning Teams to discuss potential collaborations.
4. We looked at our Mandate and decided that it's ready to put on the Website (Action: Jinny. Ed Note: DONE).

Next meeting: May 26th at 1pm (scheduled as 4th Wednesday of each month)

Property Stewardship Team (Don)

- Plumbing is getting old and issues will need to be addressed.

Share the Commons Team (Judith)

- Over several meetings the SCT has revised their mandate. See Attachment 3 below and forward comments. (Action: Jinny. Ed Note: DONE). Long Range Planning and Bookings need to be integrated into this.
- Next meeting: TBA

The Process Team (David)

- Process Team has been meeting. David expressed satisfaction with the Team's work. For example, they discussed the Meter Radio On/Off issue and offer to do a 6-Hats Exercise for this if needed.
- Bob suggested that there is a lack of clarity on the part of all about how the Process Team

functions. This led to a lively and fruitful discussion on following points:

- Why the name? Why not call it "conflict resolution? We need to deal with conflict
- Conflict is everywhere - too broad a topic. More effective to work on consensus building. This was clearly not a satisfying answer.
- The Covenant has a section on Conflict Resolution concerned with stewarding conflict
- How to get the word about on the nature and mandate of the team?
- Suggestion: the Process Team could "sell" itself on the website Blog. Describe what it does with pizzazz! inviting people to attend.
- It was also pointed out that the current Process Team mandate doesn't address the subject of conflict, nor what the team does and how it assists the overall Commons mandate.

People for a Healthy Community (Brenda)

- PHC is part of the Learning Circle with Bill White and the 1st Nations
- Sunflower Project between children and seniors started.
- There has been a request to plant a tree to honour a past volunteer. The Commons needs to establish a process for this, including preference for an indigenous species. ACTION: Brenda will explore the family's plans for the planting of a memorial tree, and possibly advise that the planting be held if the preferred species is not indigenous.

Tool Library (Diane)

Tool Library is open from 10 am to noon on Saturdays and is currently manned by one person/session to satisfy Covid-19 concerns. Looking forward to being able to invite more volunteers.

5. Additional Items Arising:

In the process of clearing the land of trees for the skateboard park in Huxley Park, it appears that 80-100 trees need to be felled. A question from one hopeful contractor poses if the trees may be allowed to fall temporarily onto a specific narrow band of land on the Commons (i.e. the bare-ish land where the east/west trail encounters Huxley Park. The trees would be cut at 26 feet tall, with the rooted portion removed by pushing until the tree comes out with its roots. One bucked, the wood would be donated to the Lions Club for families who need it.

Discussion:

- Agreed that it is most regrettable to fell so many trees.
- Accepting this temporary use of the Commons land could result in damage done by the heavy machinery in the felling area, even though the area has few sensitive indigenous plants. Could be replanted afterwards with more native species.
- After considerable discussion, the consensus was to his single contractor's proposal; we should not favour one bidder over any other. ACTION: Bob to inform the contractor who made the inquiry.
- Note: the East-West pathway is obliged to angle toward North Road near

6. Closing (Bob)

Appreciations to those who attended and reported.

7. 20-minute Discussion Topics Outstanding

- How do we orient people to the Commons?
- Council Review
- Tree cutting policy discussion

ATTACHMENTS

1. COMMONS COUNCIL FACILITATOR GUIDELINES April 2021

COUNCIL MEETINGS FACILITATOR ROLES

- Two facilitators from teams in alphabetical rotation, in four-month overlapping terms.
- One facilitator chairs and one attends, eg, to track order of those wishing to speak, etc.
- Each pair determines how they will share their roles; when an alternate is required, they will be recruited before the meeting.
- Track which team is next responsible for taking Notes or Co-facilitating, and remind team representatives in a timely fashion.
- Track prompt submission of Notes. These go first to both Co-facilitators for review, then to Communications Team Rep for copy-editing, cross-checking attachments, circulation to team representatives and posting to Commons website.
- Provide copies of Council mandate and decision-making process for those new to the Commons.
- About one week before the meeting, review Notes from last meeting, assemble a draft agenda and provide it to Communications Team rep to circulate to all other reps.

COUNCIL MEETINGS FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend by 6:45 and set up chairs in a circle [OR start Zoom, having assigned a Zoom host].
- Review Notes from last meeting together.
- Review agenda together and post on flip chart [OR assure that it is available to Zoom host for Share Screen].
- Create neutral, welcoming and positive atmosphere.
- Maintain respectful communication and presence.
- Ensure all have an opportunity to speak and be heard.

COUNCIL MEETINGS AGENDA AND PROCESS

- Open/welcome to meeting
- First Nations acknowledgements
- Commons acknowledgements, as guided by principles of stewardship, egalitarian participation, consensus decision making and a shared vision of supporting ecological, agriculture and cultural sustainability
- Welcome those new to Council and any guests; make introductions as necessary

- Review Council agenda
- Bring forward outstanding business and/or corrections to minutes
- Facilitate 1) Ecological 2) Agriculture 3) Multi-purpose information and reports
- Keep track of time and agenda items; summarize decisions as necessary
- Thank everyone for their contributions at end of meeting

COUNCIL MEETINGS DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- List proposals or recommendations on flipchart
- Review decision making process as outlined in the Gabriola Commons Field Guide

ENJOY!

2. Learning Opportunities Team Mandate March 7, 2021

Mandate:

- To bring visibility to the Commons movement by creating opportunities for engaging the community in learning about aspects of the Commons philosophy, vision, processes, goals and challenges.
- To address the question: What is the seminal and transforming role of the Commons, locally and globally, in creating new possibilities and capacities for a brighter future beyond the market and the state.
- To facilitate knowledge and skill sharing.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the growth of the Commons, on Gabriola and Beyond.
- To learn from a First Nations relational worldview, and invite Snuneymoux and other First Nations to the Commons.
- To collaborate and learn with other groups and organizations, focussing on intergenerational and land-based approaches.
- To encourage and facilitate inter-team and co-team learning on the Commons.
- To engage a stewardship model and approach in all our team efforts.
- To be financially self sustaining as much as possible.

Strategy:

- To support our mandate and objectives through a series of workshops, film screenings, discussions, symposia, and other gatherings with the purpose of learning and growing as a Commons.
- Regularly update Council on our goings on.

3. Share the Commons Mandate

Revised, Spring, 2021, to fit new website format

Contact the Share the Commons Team if you are interested in proposing a new project or event on the Commons or helping one of the “on the books” potential new projects move forward.

Mandate: The team acts as the entry point for potential new projects on the Commons.

Objectives:

1. To work with groups and individuals wanting to develop new events or projects on the Commons so as to maintain a peaceful, productive and respectful co-existence of all land and facilities uses.
2. To facilitate discussions on the Vision and Purpose of the Commons as new projects are developed to ensure that they reflect them.
3. To strive for full participation in the sharing of the Commons to affirm its identity as a Community Commons.
4. To act as a bridge to the Council and other relevant teams during the development of new projects and events.

Strategies:

- Host conversations with interested groups and individuals to talk about the proposed project/event and identify relevant steps and documents/teams to consult.
- Assess the proposed project/event's fit with Commons values and processes.
- Provide guidance in creating a working group and project mandate.
- Assist the working group in consulting with and getting support from other teams in council.
- Provide a member of the STC team to assist the group in its liaisons with council and other teams.
- Provide information to the Commons community about the project/event.

General:

- Respond to inquiries to ascertain whether a group or individual proposing to hold an activity on the Commons might merely need to book space through the Bookings Team, and to both refer them and advise on relevant documents to complete.
- Assist at Commons events to encourage new participants to become more involved by joining a team or project group.
- Note: could add a link to the Long Range Planning Team here, if the team chooses to post the list of possible projects that have emerged from community consultations.