

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of Meeting of June 1, 2021 Via Zoom

Co-facilitators: Deb Ferens (solo) for Finance Team and Jinny (tech support)

Recorder: Maya Ruggles for Learning Opportunities Team

Present: Deb Ferens, Maya Ruggles, Bob Andrew, Jinny Hayes, George Szanto, Shelagh Huston, David Lightly, K. Louise Vincent, Nancy Hetherington-Pierce, Brenda Fowler, Don Smardon, Judith Roux

Next CCC meeting: July at 7 pm in person outside

Recorder for July: Long Range Planning

Facilitator for next meeting: Don Smardon for Finance

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Acknowledgement

Deb gave territorial acknowledgement and Bob read sections 71 through 76 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls for Action: Missing Children and Burial Information.

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-calls-to-action>

- <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524494530110/1557511412801>

- https://yellowheadinstitute.org/trc/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=actionkit

2. Welcome & Agenda

3. Following Up from previous meetings

A. Facilitator Guide (offered by K.Louise Vincent and Jinny Hayes): more a guide/how-to for processes, not so much training in facilitating skillfully. **Action** (Jinny): send to next Facilitator & post to website (Resource, Administration). Monitor how it goes.

B. Tree cutting policy discussion (Bob): Team comments: Learning Opportunities Team (LOT) sharing text on Indigenous perspective on tree cutting (see LOT team notes attached). Item in progress. **ACTION:** Judith and Bob (with help from others) to start working on a draft to Council for teams to take a look at and respond to. Original tree cutting policy was passed but is now lost.

C. Meter off/on: Don review of original request from PST/Trustees that came to Council in

May. Team responses provided: Process (support but aware of some historical concerns), COV (support), COM (support), FIN (support), LOT (stand aside; see full comments in team report), PST (support), Shelagh (memory-keeper: reminder of health concerns expressed originally), FMT (stand aside)

- **Commitment:** we won't forget about health concerns
- **Commitment:** follow up with deeper discussion
- **ACTION (Trustees):** Turn on 2 meters

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

- A. Tree cutting Policy: Draft coming from Bob and Judith to next CCC
- B. Communication Team members needed

5. 20-minute Discussion

COV presentation "Gabriola Commons: Transition and Stewardship" (see **Attachment A** for talking points and request for action). Council supports request for action. **ACTION:** COV will convene meeting of the LRP, LOT and COV Teams.

20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding

How do we orient people to the Commons?
Council Review (see Process Team report, below)

6. Team Reports:

Board of Trustees (Maya)

- MOUs in process: GAC/Cultivate almost signed; Poetry Gabriola asking about length of tenure (MOU in negotiation)
- Looking at document from Finance called *Fundraising: A Stewardship Model*
- Next meeting: June 22nd 7pm, potentially at the Commons.

Communications (Jinny)

- Report see **Attachment B**.
- Next meeting: Call of Facilitator

Covenant Team (K. Louise)

- Heard from ALC about the Referral request – positive prelim request for addenda, review not complete yet. Keeping in touch with the Land Conservancy.
- Next meeting: June 15 3 pm

Covid-19 Group (Name of person reporting)

- No Report
- Next meeting this week, June 4

Farm Team (Judith)

- Hands-on team work, informal/work-oriented meeting at workbees, grass-cutting is big job, hascaps coming, GES fundraiser – selling native plants – going well.
- No separate reports for Allotment Gardens

Finance (Maya)

- Preparing financial statement for our fiscal yearend. Will present on statements, budgeting, and reallocation recommendations at the July Council
- Completed procedure and new deposit form so that we can trial accepting e-transfers as payment for rentals (we are trialing with Kitchen Stewards)
- Agreed that Tree-cutting item is not financially relevant
- Next meeting: June 9th at 1:30

Learning Opportunities Team (Maya)

- Full Report **Attachment C**.
- Shared text on an Indigenous perspective of tree-cutting (attached to LOT report).
- Requested further discussion and attention to the broader context and potential implications of BC Hydro item (but did not block).
- Support from Council for LOT to steward acknowledgement piece of Council meetings.
- Next meeting: June 23rd at 1:30

Property Stewardship Team (Bob)

- Workbees; working with GAC for Cultivate (to happen in a month); long list running (send any requests to be added to list); more people joining PST and coming to workbees; some fun projects completed: sandbox, swing, chess set (photo in paper soon); *the cart* is back!

The Process Team (Dave Lightly)

- Council Review – Covid has prevented further development and/or follow up.

7. Affiliate Reports*People for a Healthy Community* (Brenda)

- Piloting good food box in partnership w/Nanaimo food share. Pay by ability (costs of veg are covered); 28 participating families and individuals.
- BC Farmers food voucher program – subsidy program.
- Kids in the garden over the last couple of weeks, finishing up for the season.
- Request for planting a hydrangea for a deceased volunteer. IS this an indigenous plant? FMT responses: Who would take care of it? Where would it go? Maybe confer with Laura Jean Kelly? **ACTION:** Brenda will be in touch with FMT and PMT (Kim has been doing most of the taking care of plants).

GAC/Cultivate (Shelagh)

- MOU almost signed; allowed slightly higher numbers for events than expected (25 to 40)

8. Additional Items Arising: None

9. Closing (Deb)

Attachment A

Covenant Team – Presentation to Council – June 1st, 2021 – Talking Points

The Gabriola Commons: Transition and Stewardship

1. Introduction

- Stewarding the Commons – Where Land and People Meet
- Stewardship Agreement and Plan – Ecology, Agriculture and Community
- Covenant and First Nations Alignment

2. Three Visions

- Covenant and Stewardship Plan (COV)
- Stewardship Centre (LRP)
- Intergenerational Land-based Learning with First Nations (LOT re: GES-SFU)

3. Interwoven Plan

- Assessment of Current, Historical & Future Use
- Stewardship Centre and Office Hub
- Education and Collaboration
- Elder Meeting Space

4. Going Forward

- Calling Intention Into the Commons
- Global Commons Trust
- Stewardship and Land Protection
- Design Implementation

5. Request For Action

- Call for 3 teams (LOT, Covenant, LRP) to convene and prepare a proposal

Attachment B: Communication Team Report to Commons Council, June 1, 2021

We met this AM at Nancy's, first in-person mtg since almost exactly a year ago!

1. Team expansion: We are now only two members, so given the importance of communication on the Commons and between the Commons and the community, we need another member or two, even if it is to take responsibility for only 1-2 regular tasks. Good working relationships and work gives a keen sense of accomplishment; no remuneration, however.
2. Rackcards: Used for Welcome Home Gabriola and Mad Rona's. Content finalized; does anyone want to see the draft? Will go to Nola Johnson this week (she volunteered to set it up) and to printing ASAP. 2016 brochure to be phased out.
3. Info boards: Request from Design Group to have these finalized. Jinny checked a couple of that group's requirements with Kim Kasasian, and with a little more work, they will be ready to go. We believe these are for posting on the new shed as an "Info Centre".
4. CanadaHelps website: Commons content needs revamping. Jinny will do, draft to Nancy then to Finance Team. Does anyone else want to see it before it's mounted on CanadaHelps website?
5. Future of Council: In the light of a possible shift to Stewardship Model, we suggest reconsidering the current format of Council; since what we have right now is not functioning as set out in the Field Guide, we might like to try something quite different; Council's context has changed over the years as the Commons has evolved.

For example, one way to "think stewardship" is where the responsibility for Council stands. As the GCF and its Trustees are legally responsible to assure that the Commons remains a vibrant, healthy entity and Council is essential to this, perhaps Trustees could take leadership in annually organizing facilitators for Council. (Appears that our new, 4-month alpha rotations method is difficult to sustain.) Council facilitation does need some skill and experience.

Further, membership recruitment (ie, succession planning) may be a future task for the Trustees and we also need active volunteer recruitment.

6. Budget: We briefly revisited our budget content and process as Maya suggested and wait Finance Team input on what we submitted in April.
7. Council Facilitator Guidelines: Nancy suggested a small tweak on timing for agenda setting and meeting reminder to teams. Any other suggestions from teams?
8. Membership and Participation Forms: These will be set up by Colleen as website fillable forms. Don has revised the Membership Form for Trustees, and Jinny will do the Participation one when we decide how a stewardship approach will be applied to accomplishing our Commons work and activities.

9. Sounder articles: No action this year since the reservoir series, and we anticipate a blitz with the Cultivate Festival coming up. If you have ideas for articles or wish to write, let Jinny know: communications@gabriolacommons.ca. "News" (blog) on the website can also be used. At the moment, with a 2-person team, this task has to be a low priority.

Attachment C

LOTeam report to Commons Council

June 2021

Present: Deb, Jocelyn, Maya

Not present but wants to stay in the loop: Monica

We again had a very enriching and inspirational conversation, and again via zoom. We'll be checking in a week prior to our next meeting to decide about having a face-to-face meeting.

1. On the topic of getting teams/groups/ideas together, we discussed the potential for getting several teams of the Commons (e.g. LOT, COV, LRP) and the Land-Based-Learning research team together. In that vein, Kate Reynolds will be a welcome addition at our next meeting in June.

2. We committed to reading *Salt Water People as told by Dave Elliott Sr.*, and will be talking about it with Kate, along with some of the other specific suggestions that Elder Bill White has offered.

3. Our intention to start getting an electronic library going has met with some small actions. We'll have more to report on the that in the future.

4. We spent some good time on Council and related items:

i. First, we'd like to offer to steward the Acknowledgement piece of Council. Our intention is to have it as a standing item on our monthly team agenda, and prepare to bring something to Council. If others come with things they'd like to contribute, they are welcome, of course; we would be the 'holders' of that space/time. If this is something that pleases everyone, we could try it out for a few months and check in again about how it's going.

ii. Second, we discussed the tree-cutting policy. Jocelyn offered to share a piece that's come to the Land-Based-Learning team recently which describes an Indigenous perspective on tree cutting. Who should I share it with for now (it will be part of our library in future)?

iii. Finally, we discussed the meter off/on item. Looking at it through a learning lens, we wanted to dig a little deeper and try to unveil some of the hidden costs of large-scale infrastructure projects, and the implications for our dependency on technologies that compel us further down a path of environmental degradation and dehumanization. In particular, we want to explore the connections between the actions that are being taken by BC Hydro and the Prov of BC against the West Moberly First Nations and the Peace Valley as a whole, on the one hand, and our compliance with BC Hydro around smart meters and energy use. In drawing our attention to this field, we're not suggesting a block to turning the meters on. But perhaps this could lead us towards a deeper discussion of what our options really are... for instance, what could the path towards off-grid look like? We thought, in light of the many underlying connections, implications and potential unintended consequences (and sadly, some intended consequences too) of our current path, the questions seem warranted.

(West Moberly First Nations press release regarding Site C: <https://www.westmo.org/news/press-release-treaty-8-first-nations-head-court/>); RAVEN page on Site C campaign – see 25January2021 letter from West Moberly Chief Roland Willson to John Horgan: <https://raventrust.com/campaigns/sitec/>)

Tree Cutting

"...I have to prepare myself spiritually, mind, body and spirit. I have to cleanse myself before I can even walk in the forest to see what cedar tree I'm going choose for a

canoe...When you do find it, there is a ritual, a prayer to offer that you are going to take a life. Because there are cedar people too, in our legends, in our stories told to us when we're young people. You cannot just take a cedar tree for the sake of knocking it over..." First Nations Justice: Spiritual Values and traditional Teachings Elder Samuel Sam. Video transcript from a video of Dr. Samuel Sam, OC from Keith Jobson (Uvic Law School) , Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Church of Victoria, BC 1995.

Julie: last installment! In addition to this quote from Dr. Samuel Sam, OC (our Uncle. He is directly related to Chief Wyse's family through his grandmother. He is also related through marriage to the Fraser family from Snuneymuxw) he also told a story at Goldstream Park about the creation of the first woman from a downed cedar tree. It is for these reasons that our Sulsalewh believed we were related to all living things.

Today, the visitor to the decaying poles has no idea what the artist, or who the artist was had in mind when creating these historic works of art. I am sure the artist did not mean for it to rot away to nothing. He prepared with ritual and ceremony to find the tree, to bring it down, to transport it and to slowly over time apply prayers, songs, focus to bring it back to life for a new time and place. In doing so he was making our relationships to the natural and supernatural worlds 'visible' once more and for a new time and place.

This is one of many stories that might appear on a description for a new and or replacement Coast Salish houspost or three dimensional figure. It would certainly help the visitor understand the Snuneymuxw clear relationships with the natural and supernatural worlds and in Sams' view and many others that we are related to all living things.

I already mentioned that i suspect the carved display of teeth was more of a northern influence rather than Coast Salish concepts.....recall our artists were heavily influenced to believe that art was northern more so than our own. Thankfully, Salish artists like Simon Charlie, Charles Elliott and later Susan Point were responsible for a rebirth of the complexities associated with Salish art making our sacred relationships to all living things visible once more.

The Bowen Park poles must be replaced with clear connexions/stories to our living culture.

with love and respect

Bill White, Snuneymuxw

Son of Willie and Kay White (nee Jimmy daughter of Adam Jimmy and Martha O'Shane Joseph, Cowichan)

Grandson of George and Isobel (nee Wyse) White

Descendant of the hereditary Chief Tsuknustan