

## Commons Coordinating Council

August 3, 2021 In person on the lawn

Facilitator: Don Smardon, Bob Andrew (PST)

Recorder: Louise Amuir (TPT)

Acknowledgement of the Land, expressing gratitude and willingness to steward, reconcile and repair.

20 Minute discussion.

How to welcome people on to the Commons. We did an exercise of going out to some being on the land that called to us and sought their advice. The ensuing discussion was spacious and included input from the grasses ( we're already community and we welcome people – happy to feel people using us) Queen Anne's lace (less oversight, more organic), the labyrinth (so much has been done and many things need maintenance), two guys chatting (fantastic that people are coming and playing music in the evenings and cleaning up after themselves), a couple of trees weighed in (play is important) It's got to be fun. Parties of various kinds were proposed. Inviting people walking by to join in. So many delightful things for families and kids to do. There seems to be lots of new energy in using the Commons grounds.

Next 20 minute discussion: Possibly the Council Review. Dave, Bob and Louise will get together some morning and figure out a presentation for next month.

### Team reports:

**Property Stewardship Team** – Bob (by email) Some more decisions around the hedge have been made. The hedge will be trimmed again in Sept. (fire ban permitting). This is an expensive annual venture- to the tune of about \$2500 so we are going to put out a call for future trimming to be done by volunteers. It is a big job but we can't afford to have professionals do it all the time. We will be removing the section near the Cob wall at that time.

The pond is at the bottom edge of our prescribed limit of use for irrigation. That is, we will be now switching over to the reservoir for as long as that water lasts. BE water aware. There were a few glitches in getting the pump system up and running in the reservoir but it now is good to go. We will be happy to give training sessions on how to switch from the pond to the reservoir and vice versa to a limited few. "Limited" because it is a bit complicated and it would be easy to mess things up.

Renovations to the upstairs bathrooms will be starting soon. We will be completing the renovation to the large (first bathroom down the corridor) first. We are looking for a (nice) interior door if anyone can find such a thing. Minimum size would be 2'8" wide (32") by standard height (6'8"), preferably with a jamb. The other bathroom will remain open for use as long as we have an agreement with PHC to use an upstairs bathroom for staff and volunteers only.

We have done some minor, but necessary, roof repairs on the house and will be doing more before the winter rains.

Lots of great new outside fun things to do: Badminton court, Giant Checkers/Chess set, new sandbox-with toys, new swings, some interesting hopscotch, basketball hoop soon, and more to come!

Looked at the PHC diesel generator they offered us and gratefully decline as we have two others of the same capacity. (6kw)

Meetings are Saturdays over lunch at the Commons.

#### **Events Team** – from Mitch Miyagawa

I wanted to give you a quick update on the Events Team // Fall Fair.

Yes, it's happening! We have confirmed the Fall Fair date for **Sunday, September 19, 12 - 5pm.**

Here is a link to the [Facebook Event](#). We'll be placing ads in the Sounder and sending out Communiques.

We're going with a somewhat later time to allow for a more relaxed set up in the morning.

We've been building a great team around this, and we're organizing a **Planning Party on Wednesday, August 11, 7pm, at the Timber Frame.**

If you want to get involved and contribute some hands-on help, please let me know - or just come to the planning party. And spread the word to your teams and friends.

I'll be in touch with relevant teams next week. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions. [info@maji.events](mailto:info@maji.events)

#### **Farm Team** – Judith

Continuing to harvest and sell blueberries, figs, Yellow Transparents on Saturdays at the road 10-noon

#### **Sharing The Commons** – Judith

We've had a request for collaboration with the Gabriola Green Burial Society project

#### **PHC Liaison** – Dave

We were offered a diesel generator. After some discussion, we decided we will gratefully decline.

#### **South Gardens** – Doug

Harvest and AGM in the garden. BBQ, live music, awards!

#### **Process Team** – Freddie is coming back on the Equinox (yay)

#### **Trustees** – Deb

MOU with Poetry Gabriola going well.

Finance Team did year-end report in July and now it has been passed to accounting firm for review.

Tobi Elliot is doing a research project about reconciliation with the Museum and Royal Roads

University. Looking for a trustee and someone else to participate in talking circle and interview. Dave Lightly and Louise Amuir volunteered.

Hydro meters are now radio ON

Summer-long tent erection. GAC has received funding to purchase the high-end tent that was used at Cultivate, and would like to put it up on a seasonal (May-Oct) semi-permanent basis on top of the reservoir. Dave Teichrob, musician, sent a letter of support. They'd like to store it in the goat barn – 3'x4' tent bag and some poles. Questions to be resolved – maintenance, repair, insurance. We decided to say yes in principle and work out details quickly for this year, with a more leisurely approach to agreements for next year.

**Communications** – Jinny

No report tonight. Tweaking the website. Need team members.