

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of Meeting of February 2, 2022

Facilitator: Lino Vella-Gregory for Bookings Team

Recorder: David Lightly for Process Team

Present: Jinny Hayes, David Lightly, Bob Andrew, Shelagh Huston, Deb Ferens, Brenda Joy, Cameron Murray, Diane Streeter, Kay-Louise Vincent, Nancy Hetherington-Pierce, Judith Roux, Maya Ruggles.

Next CCC meeting: March 1 at 7 pm.

Facilitator(s) for next meeting: Communication Team

Recorder for next meeting: Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Agenda

Lino welcomed participants and proposed an agenda

2. Acknowledgments

Deb acknowledged our presence on the unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and expressed appreciation for their stewardship of the land. She proposed that when we return to in-person meetings, we return to our review and discussion of the 91 recommendations of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*.

3. 20-minute Discussion

Stewardship Model for the Commons

Facilitator: Shelagh

A fulsome and detailed discussion of the work being done on this subject occurred.

Discussion of the draft Covenant entered this conversation. This is an attempt to capture the highlights.

Brenda questioned where the Commons is with the Stewardship Plan & Covenant. Deb reviewed the covenant process as per previous presentations.

Shelagh - Does the Stewardship Plan need to be in place prior to granting of the Covenant?

Deb -Yes

Nancy - What difference will the transition to a stewardship model make to the governance of the Commons?

Maya - An ad hoc group has been working to bring together ideas from 3 teams (Learning Opportunities, Covenant and Long-Range Planning) for transition to a stewardship model.

Deb - the Covenant Team remains separate as well (a sub-group of the Trustees) and will be concentrating on actions required to register the Covenant on Title. The Stewardship Transition Task Force will be working on a draft mandate for a Stewardship Team.

Judith - Council might become different. The emphasis will on a different way of operating, with focus shifting to governance of the three areas of protecting the Commons: agriculture, ecology and multipurpose uses.

Shelagh - How will Council change?

Deb – We need to be really careful to not lose the values of having a Council, but it would be too much to attend to **everything** at one monthly meeting.

Shelagh/Maya/Brenda/K.Louise support formation of a Stewardship Team. Ad hoc group will be developing a draft mandate for the team.

Brenda - Send to teams for comment.

Yes, this will go to teams and Council for input.

Nancy - What is the timeline for bringing proposed mandate to Council?

Deb and Maya - Probably April Council.

5. Team Reports:

Board of Trustees (Cameron Murray)

- Meeting Jan 18th 2022. Finding our feet.
- MOUs up to date; Tool Library's next. Process becoming more streamlined.
- PHC lease up for renewal March 31, 2022. Draft being developed by Deb Ferens, LJ Kelly Don Smardon and David Lightly.
- Examining insurance.
- Examining fundraising model.
- Preparing an application for BC groundwater licensing system. Due March 1st 2022.
- Next meeting Feb 15th.

Nancy: Could Trustees discuss the by-law requirement of Trustees having only one 3-year term? The complexity of the Commons might warrant two 3-year terms being possible. Short terms result in a loss of organizational memory.

Bookings (Maya)

- No report tonight
- Next meeting - Soon

Communications (Jinny)

- Rack card in progress (designed to inform people new to Gabriola what the Commons is. Will bring draft to next Council.
- Jinny asked for feedback on the logo, now two years old. Comments made pro and anti-goat. Brenda likes logo but questioned the gender of the stick figure. Can some aspect of stewardship be incorporated?
- The question of the Commons website being hosted by an American server was discussed. Could be re-examined when current contract expires. Deb - Rise-up might be a possibility.
- Lino: Is the Commons on FaceBook? Yes, Mary will be steering this in future with Jinny as backup.
- Deb asks whether the Commons blog is active? Jinny - Available, but currently out of date; it's hard to get material submitted by teams and individuals.
- Next meeting: call of Facilitator

Community Kitchen Stewards

- No report but Bob reported for PST that the Kitchen is open on a limited basis until the gas issue is resolved. Gas fitter coming.
- Next meeting unknown.

Covenant Team (K.Louise)

- Meeting with The Land Conservancy was “lively”. Will report next month.
- Next meeting Feb 3 at 1.30

Covid-19 Group (Deb)

- Met Jan 10 and reviewed the new Public Health Orders. Indoor spaces continue to be closed. Will be review when situation changes.
- House is closed till Jan 31.
- Occupancy limits for the upstairs farmhouse rooms have been set by the Fire Marshall who will make official signs for posting.
- Deb expressed sadness at the lack of global sharing of vaccines.
- Next meeting TBA

Farm Team: South Gardens (Brenda)

- A new sign at the parking lot. Member has developed a website for the South Garden. Can this be linked to the Commons website? Jinny: Yes, please be in touch with the COM Team.

Finance (Maya)

- No report
- Next meeting Feb 3rd

Learning Opportunities Team (Maya)

- Canoe steaming at the Commons has been put on hold due to circumstances at SFU.
- Looking at David Bollier’s book, *Free, Fair and Alive: The Insurgent Power of the Commons* [The power of the commons as a free, fair system of provisioning and governance beyond capitalism, socialism, and other -isms.] as a basis for future team actions.
- Next meeting Feb 12.

Property Stewardship Team (Bob)

- Work bees are focused on the timber frame. Sub panel will be installed and upstairs closed in.
- The Community Kitchen is open on a limited basis until the gas issue is resolved. Gas fitter coming.
- Next meeting at next workbee.

Trails and Green Spaces Team (Judith)

- Plans developing for up-dating the baseline study (required for the Covenant)
- Next meeting at Workbees

6. Affiliate Reports***People for a Healthy Community***

- Not present to report tonight

Poetry Gabriola

- Not present to report tonight

Tool Library (Diane)

Note: Due to technical difficulties, Diane submitted the following in writing:

- The Gabriola Tool Library has not been operating for the last 3 Saturdays in January and

probably will continue to be closed well into February due to concerns over the surge in the Omicron variant of Covid infections. We did offer tool placements by invitation. We have lost 3 very active volunteers, who were also Directors, starting with Tom Keane's death in October 2021. That has left us with very few people to keep the Library operating. Tom's widow Carol has been training with me and is very determined to keep the Library a going concern. If Covid will ever subside enough for people not to be so frightened, there may be a chance for the Library to get up to speed again. Here's hoping!

7. Closing (Lino)

Appreciation to all who attended.