



Meeting Minutes for Tuesday **March 1, 2022** @ 7:00 live @ the Farmhouse

G A B R I O L A C O M M O N S C O U N C I L

Participation

Patrick Roux, Bob Andrew, Judith Roux, Mitch Miyagawa, Gloria Filax, Brenda Joy, Betty Kailor, K-Louise Vincent, Don Buskirk
Facilitation / Jinny Hayes & Notes / Cameron Murray

Acknowledgement

Bob expressed gratitude for the Snuneymuxw First Nation stewardship of this land over centuries and noted that we should return to visiting the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015).

Action: Jinny at next Council Meeting.

20-Minute Discussion (Jinny)

A spontaneous decision was made to *Review our Current Council Process*.

K-Louise introduced the notion that adopting stewardship model on the Commons will affect Council, related to the three Commons elements of ecology, agriculture and culture. Teams can be considered within the wider themes.

Bob observed that teams are on the ground and provide the details for a thematic approach, and asked how it would work under a different model.

Cameron noted that water mapping could be considered under the 3 areas of focus.

Mitch requested a vision from the stewardship group as to how the new approach may work, noting that using the 3 areas might minimize "bureaucracy".

Jinny observed that the stewardship group has a draft mandate in preparation, to be brought to the April Council meeting.

Patrick recommended that Council continue to be central in the governance of the Commons. The pandemic has also disrupted the Commons, functioning of teams, and communication among them, and suggested that the work of teams could be resolved into the three overlapping areas of protection.

KL: it's early yet and there will be much discussion; dissonance is healthy.

Review of Rotating Facilitation and Note-Taking

Jinny enquired whether the current approach of rotational facilitation and note-taking is working well: one facilitator at each Council, preferably 2 meetings in a row, and one team furnishing a note taker each month.

Brenda requested an introduction to the Commons approach to facilitation for new members; such does exist. **Action:** Jinny will revise & circulate.

K-Louise recommended a welcome and orientation for new members. **Action:** ??

Stewardship Transition.

The next 20-minute discussion will review the stewardship transition group's draft mandate for a Stewardship Team.

Team Reports*Covenant (K.Louise)*

- The Covenant Team continues dialogue with The Land Conservancy (A potential Covenant Holder).
- A long-term planning proposal is in preparation to assist with stepping into stewardship. The Commons presents new aspects, beyond conservation ecology, for TLC to consider.

Biomapping

Judith presented an invitation to all to help update the *biomapping of the Commons*, on **March 20, 10:00 - 3:00**. She presented 2 beautiful maps which outline the 23 ecosystems of the Commons. This equinox invitation has also been provided for publication in the Sounder.

Trustees (Gloria)

- PHC co-ordinations are in progress, and the cultivate festival memorandum is near completion.
- On insurance, Trustees are considering alternatives to mitigate the rising costs of coverage. With the Islands Trust, Trustees are also enquiring about the implications of density transfer.
- *Water*: To meet provincial requirements (*the Water Sustainability Act*), Trustees have prepared a bookmark submission to maintain the Commons use of well water; there would have been a \$250 charge without a submission.. And the Trustees welcome a wide discussion about water at a future council meeting.

Events (Mitch)

- Due to lack of volunteers, the Events Team feels unable to program a Spring Fair, though there is enthusiasm for the Fall Fair; team will meet in May (Mitch will be away in April). Usually at the Spring Fair, in addition to offerings of plant starts, there is a Maypole dance and the dancers have indicated their availability. There was a call to anyone previously associated with a Spring Fair to step up to organize a spontaneous spring festival. Brenda said she would approach the South Gardeners.

South Gardens (Brenda)

- Brenda introduced a communications strategy for garden groups to link on the website.
- Due to garden theft, garden gates have been locked overnight. K-Louise suggested that a review, to continue with locked gates, be made in Autumn. Bob reported that theft has also been an issue in the North Gardens. Perhaps community education or a sign *be kind to gardeners* may help.

Farm Team (Judith)

- The Farm Team is an "anarchic group".
- Meetings are held on the ground, on Saturday, in work bees.
- Betty reviewed the fresh apple juice process on the Commons. For food security in the face of climate change, she recommended freeze drying surplus apples, strawberries, etc. and proposes that a drier be purchased for the Community Kitchen for community use; it is available from Colleen's for \$6,000, can freeze dry ~ 40 lbs per 24-hour load, and stands 30x24x20". Charge for use might be \$-4/load. She presented 3 testimonials. Fundraising will be required. Bob suggested an ad hoc group can review the idea with Kitchen Stewards and the Agi Co-op. **Action: Volunteer need.**

Property Stewardship (Bob)

- Meetings are on site on Saturdays at the work bee.
- Good progress is being made with the Sustainability Centre (TimberFrame), using wood from the reservoir.
- Kitchen appliances are under review, with priorities for replacement (“big ticket items”)

Dancing at the Commons (Don Buskirk)

• Don introduced plan outlines and costing for a modular dance floor for the Reservoir Stage. Laminate panels of various sized tiles can interlock into a performance surface. The modular units are stackable for simplicity of storage. The pros and cons of his various proposals were briefly discussed and one priority recommendation surfaced. Don plans to fund this project personally. **Further ACTION: Don.**