

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
www.gabriolacommons.ca
Notes of Meeting of May 3, 2022

Facilitator: Heather Menzies for Covenant Team

Recorder: Bob Andrew, standing in for the Communications Team

Present: Deb Ferens, Diane Streeter, Don Smardon, Dave Needs, Sam Abraham

Next CCC meeting: June 7, 2022 at 7 pm in Farmhouse upstairs

Facilitator(s): Heather Menzies for Covenant Team

Recorder: Jinny Hayes for Communication Team

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Agenda

2. Acknowledgements

3. 20 Minute discussion: Woodworking Guild Kiln Proposal

There was a presentation by Dave Needs and Sam Abraham, from the Woodworking Guild, regarding the proposal to site a small wood kiln on the Commons, which they had previously discussed with the Sharing the Commons Team.

- Wish to install a small (approx. 5'x13'x5') wood kiln on the Commons beside the equipment shed. The kiln has been donated by Verne Smith.
- Cost of operation: electrical use of approx. \$20/month when in use. Will be monitored.
- The kiln would be open to more than just the Guild members, space permitting; Guild members would have priority. Operation and booking by the Guild, which would also vet would-be users for competence to operate the kiln.
- The Guild will take out whatever insurance might be necessary.
- The consensus of the meeting attendees was to support the project proposal going forward to the Trustees to discuss and develop an MOU, contingent on feedback from teams and team members who weren't at the meeting. If people raise concerns/questions that go beyond the technical/administrative to more substantial concerns, the discussion will be brought back to Council.
- There will be no vehicle access to the kiln.
- Guild foresees no further infrastructure requirements from what is already there.
- Question of "beautification" of the structure raised. Will be considered by the Guild but possibly will wait for the day that a larger structure is created.
- Any further questions should now go to the Trustees.
- Recommendation that the Guild place a plaque on the structure honouring Verne Smith.

ACTION: Consideration by Teams (Jinny send out with these Notes)

ACTION: Deb Ferens will ask the Trustees insurance person what is necessary for insurance.

ACTION: A MOU will be considered by the Trustees; Deb to discuss with Trustees.

Consensus of the meeting that a MOU is necessary.

4. Team & Affiliate Reports

Tool Library (Diane)

All good.

Property Stewardship Team (Bob)

- Timber Frame focus coming along. Electrical next.
- Kudos to Kim Kasasian for her arduous beautification project.
- A discussion of possible Wifi at the Goat Barn ensued: This needs much more input. The discussion will possibly be brought forward by the Trustees to Council. **ACTION:** Deb to discuss with Trustees. A possible 20 min. discussion?

South Gardens (Brenda Joy, submitted written report)

1. Last CoCo meeting was: Mon 2 May, 2022. Points relevant to the Commons Council were:
2. SCG Budget: This is being finalized by Ailene Warner and will need to be circulated again to the CoCo members. Doug Scott (CoCo Chair) or Ailene Warner (CoCo Treasurer) will forward the final version to the Commons point of contact.
3. South Commons driveway and parking lot: The driveway is badly rutted. The CoCo plans to obtain a quote for enough gravel to cover the driveway leading to the SCG plus delivery fee. We will decide whether to proceed or not once we see the quote. The parking lot is muddy and also very rutted. Ongoing discussions as to how to manage that now and in the future. Some rocks have been deposited to try to create drainage.
4. SCG Spring Business Meeting/ social and Annual Business Meeting: A Spring business meeting and social is planned for Sat June 18. We plan to hold our Annual Meeting earlier this year to take advantage of the better weather and to celebrate the end summer harvest. Planned date is Sat Aug 27.
5. Discussion on future of the Commons: SCG plans to solicit ideas from the SCG community at the June Spring meeting. One point from the CoCo was the impact of continued climate change necessitating more rainwater collection, water conservation and modifying what gardeners grow during different seasons based on specific plant watering requirements.

Other points:

- All SCG plots have been allocated except one ½ plot. Gardeners have been slower to start to garden this year as a result of the wet weather and waterlogged plots.
- The Sweet Pea (SP) Program has launched for 2022 and over 400 seedlings have been planted over the weekend by the Team. The Museum and PHC are the 2022 beneficiaries and will be providing any requested tax receipts to donors. The SP Team expects to start deliveries late June and run to early Sept and hopes to match 2021 donations.
- SCG Gardener, Sue Reid, is working on the SCG website to be hosted within the Gabriola Commons website. Sharon Arnell has written a history of the SCG which will be on the SCG website.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Joy, SCG CoCo Member & Commons Coordinating Council Rep

Bookings (Deb)

- Janice Kerr is now doing the Farmhouse Bookings (with appreciation and thanks!)
- Farmhouse bookings are largely reserved for Commons Teams (no cost) and long-term regular users, primarily other organizations on the Island. Rental revenues are for PST.
- Outdoor bookings (Lino is Steward)
 - Rental fees will be charged for the Timberframe and the Reservoir Stage.
Timberframe: \$15/hr, \$50/4hrs, \$60/day; Reservoir Stage: \$2/hr, \$55/4hrs, \$75/day

- All other outdoor use will be “first come first served” at no charge but donations will be encouraged.
- Other considerations:
 - a. The Commons operates as an “open access” and “non-exclusive” space so rental use of space cannot restrict or bar casual participants or passers-by from joining the event.
 - b. Very restricted/limited access to washrooms and issue of access to other parts of the Community Kitchen if/when access to the CK bathroom is permitted.
 - c. Revenue from Tent/Reservoir Stage will be used for maintenance & repair of tent.
 - d. All other revenues from Timberframe & outdoor use will be for PST, maintenance & general repairs.
- An idea has come up to explore with GAC.

Trustees (Deb)

- Planning a Trustee Retreat on June 28
- 3 year Lease with PHC has been signed; MOU with Tool Library signed. Next MOUs for review Gabriola Lions and Poetry Gabriola Society.
- Density Donation: a project of the Local Trust Committee. Property owners can donate extra densities to a Density Bank for Affordable Housing.
- Next Meeting May 17 at 3 pm

Communications Team (Jinny, submitted written report)

1. We are currently 3 active members, plus support for the Communiqué.
Met April 18 in person.
2. Website:
 - SiteGround: Still working to find a Canadian server substitute, though our current one is preferred by our website designer. 3-year plan expires in one more year
 - Blogs: would like to do more, eg, using these for updates and event announcement, but need input from across teams; MUST put up new stuff regularly for best effect.
 - Linking in South Gardens site: Sue Reid to connect with Jinny
3. Interior Info Boards: general discussion; Kim and Heather consulted prior to our meeting. Need filled by the “patchwork squares” on the shed. Farmhouse interior “decoration” requires further exploration. “Photo Voice” idea of Heather’s would need to be managed outside COM, due to team restrictions.
4. Social Media: Mary prepared a guide for our social media, currently FaceBook and Instagram (not Twitter). Idea is more and different info about the Commons consistently; emphasize what there is to DO rather than the constant appeal to work.
5. Sounder articles: Nancy suggested some alternatives for these and will be in touch with *Sounder* to determine options and costs (similar to Walking Group).
6. Rack cards: Jinny had circulated Nancy’s input and will integrate into a new draft for Nola Johnson’s consultation.
7. CanadaHelps website: Mary is preparing a new draft of Commons section for Finance and COM teams’ consideration.
8. Budget draft is in process; waiting on some info from the *Sounder*.
9. Logo: only one team has provided feedback so far.
10. Council items
 - Stewardship mandate discussed. Seems good; new group will move it forward.
11. Succession Planning: Jinny will be “morphing” to modified work with the Commons; implications discussed.

Trails and Green Spaces (Heather)

Heather considers herself an informal member; has undertaken to look after the labyrinth, cutting the grass and replacing stones.

5. Following Up from previous meetings

None

6. Other

None.

7. Closing

Thanks to Heather!

ED NOTES**For Teams' discussion & follow-up at next Council meeting:**

- A. Covenant Stewardship Mandate – next steps
- B. Woodworking Guild Kiln Proposal

20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding

- Water
- Financial Priorities in Future
- Food Security ADDED Apr 5, 2022
- Reinvigorating the Commons ADDED Apr 5, 2022
- Wifi in the Goat Barn ADDED May 3, 2022

