

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
www.gabriolacommons.ca
Notes of Meeting of June 6, 2022

Facilitator: Heather Menzies for Covenant Team

Recorder: Jinny Hayes for the Communications Team

Present: Deb Ferens, Brenda Fowler, Mitch Miyagawa, Judith Roux, Patrick Roux, K.Louise Vincent, Mary Wilson

Next CCC meeting: July 5, 2022 at 7 pm in Farmhouse upstairs

Facilitator(s): Heather Menzies for Covenant Team

Ed Note: Bob (Design Group) will follow Heather for two meetings

Recorder: K.Louise Vincent for Covenant Team

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Welcome & Agenda** (Heather)

2. **Acknowledgements** (Heather)

K.Louise commended Heather on the substance and delivery of these particular comments; the written version is available on request: heathermenzies@cunet.carleton.ca.

3. **Team & Affiliate Reports**

Events (Mitch)

Specifically: Fall Fair 2022: Sunday Sept 18

- Last week's planned meeting of volunteers has been postponed
- Plan is to build on last year's success in a time of fewer Covid restrictions
- Will use the same template of activities as last year, but have more lead-time this year for planning; will be a band (want suggestions)
- Do need more volunteers
- Would like to integrate more Commons teams this year, eg, Communications, Fundraising, PST, Farm, Community Kitchen
- Budget will be formulated in the next couple of weeks
- Emphasis on FUN.
- Discussion/Questions:
 - Relative emphasis on raising money (Fairs have always been good fundraisers)
 - Community Kitchen concerns, eg, orientation of new users, etc.
 - Dog Show possibility
 - Highlighting

Communications Team (Jinny)

- Nothing to add to last month's written report; surprised that there has been no reaction to Jinny's planned step-down from the team; she will be "morphing" to modified work with the Commons
- Question re: single "info board" / poster which Kim and Heather want posted at top of stairs in Farmhouse; groups' use of rooms continues to be modified, but COM will facilitate finalizing this poster ASAP.

Farm Team (Judith)

- Trying to keep up with growth of everything in current weather conditions.

- Preparing for blueberry and apple sales.

Sharing the Commons (Judith & Heather)

- Sadly, Doug McKnight has left the island and thus, the Commons; Heather will be the Team Rep
- Down to 2 members
- The Kiln application from the Woodworking Guild is going through the MOU process with Trustees.

Covenant Team (K.Louise)

- Since the team presented the Stewardship Team Mandate to Council on behalf the ad hoc group that worked on this, it is waiting for feedback on next steps.
- Been having a brief rest in teamwork
- The Land Conservancy (potential Covenant Holder) are expected to communicate this month, after which COV Team will hold a meeting.

People for a Healthy Community (Brenda)

- “Parade of Sunflowers”: 275 seniors received these from children with cards and the seniors are sending back cards of thanks.
- Food Security: PHC is interested in participating in an Island-wide discussion, eg, food equity, food literacy. Will participate when Council holds its 20-minute discussion in preparation of the Sustainability Gabriola proposed workshop.
- Picnic tables: As these are needed now, PHC has purchased 2 which will be arriving soon. If their design is not in keeping with the Commons ones (pending), they can always raffle these two off and conform with the design chosen by the Commons. Mitch expanded on the evolving plan for funding and building of tables; Kim has taken on this project.

Finance (Mary)

- Maya is still overseeing team budget submissions but only through June, so please submit them ASAP.
- Year-end statements are a bit delayed but should be ready by the end of July.
- Nesters’ grants need follow-up. **ACTION: Mary.**
- Question about grant writing: Last grant worked on for was for the Farmhouse elevator; needs to be reactivated. **ACTION: Grant Writing Team**

Learning Opportunities (Maya written report/ summarized by Deb)

- Maya (LOT) and Kate (Community Coordinator: Snuneymuxw Syath, Living History and Culture Project – previously named “Intergenerational Land Based Learning for Reconciliation on Gabriola Island.) continue to collaborate on 3 events, 2 done and 1 to come:
 - Canoe Steaming in March
 - Wildcrafting in May
 - Land Acknowledgement Workshop – Sat June 18 9:30-12:30. Michael Datura and Mark Fettes leading. It will begin with a presentation and some related issues to Land Acknowledgments, followed by time for personal reflection and exploration, small group discussion and wrap up. Bring a picnic lunch. Idea that Commons Teams attend together and use time to explore team-based land acknowledgement.
- These events/workshops have been opportunities to describe the Commons, our visions, and some of our projects – for example, bio-mapping process and materials.
- Some discussion about presenting workshops that deal with
 - 1. Commons literature, values and practices and

- 2. Settler grief and decolonization.

- A Draft Budget has been submitted to Finance
- Maya is planning to take a step back from the Commons for a while as well as most of the LOT team members are taking some time off.

Trustees (Deb)

- Planning a Trustee ‘Garden Party’ Retreat on June 28
- Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) are proceeding.
- Wading through insurance issues, eg, our \$11,000 annual bill.
- Encouraging a future 20-minute Council discussion on Wifi on the Commons.
- Considering the issue of transferring land densities as discussed at the Local Trust Committee, eg, Commons does have some that could be donated; more info to follow.
- Also been discussing the Woodworking Guild Kiln proposal (see separate discussion summary, below)
- Next Meeting Tuesday June 21 at 3 pm

Question: Should the MOUs be on the website? These are public documents, so **ACTION: Deb** will take the question to the Trustees.

Community Kitchen (Patrick)

- Team is rebuilding – Yeah!

GAC/Cultivate Liaison Group (Heather)

- Did a shared workbee this past weekend, with another planned this coming weekend.
- Status report on the schedule of pre-Cultivate tasks is available from Heather or Jinny.
- One food vendor needs a Community Kitchen orientation

Trails and Green Spaces (Heather)

- Labyrinth was reconditioned this past workbee; Amy Block assisted as she leads a walk there every Monday
- Recommend procuring a gas weed wacker, as Lino’s did a great job; **ACTION:** refer to PST.
- Will revitalize care in consultation with Amy and Mary Aitken (Team Rep).
- “Misplaced Kelly Berthalot Memorial Bench has been relocated and Bob will make some required repairs; should be done by next week.

4. Other

A. Freeze Drier at the Commons (Deb)

- Suggestion that this proposal go to STC. Betty has taken the funding and management questions to Sustainable Gabriola.

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B. Council Notes (Jinny)

- As Jinny copy-edits (and sometimes adds minor content clarification from her notes take at Council), she asked how the process of getting the Council Notes out and circulated is working for everyone. WRITTEN reports greatly assist the Note-taker. Discussion: briefer is better and remind Team reps of their responsibility; **ACTION: Jinny** to continue to do this and send out the Notes template (which may be used or not).

5. Following Up from previous meetings

A. Woodworking Guild Kiln proposal (Deb, Trustees)

- Proposal went to STC and referred to Trustees for a potential MoU; Trustees agreed and first draft is in review.
- Three issues:
 - Site: No driving over the septic system. Heat shield may be possible to protect any adjacent structure.
 - Power Source: Guild will be charged for hydro, though it's estimated to be only about \$20/month
 - Insurance: Separate insurance will be expensive for an "association of members", ie, the Guild is small and not a non-profit Society. So one suggestion is that that Commons lease the kiln for say \$1/year and then subsume its coverage under the Commons Policy. Under investigation.

Q: Can the kiln be used by the general public? A: Yes, though Guild will vet would-be users to ensure they have relevant skills and knowledge; language around this will be clarified.

ACTION: Trustees will carry the proposal forward.

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General insurance question:

The annual fee of \$11K was initially a surprise; Trustees are seeking alternatives to bring down this expense. It was noted that PHC pays its insurance separately.

B. Stewardship Team Next Steps: feedback and volunteer to the Covenant Team, please.

6. Closing

- Next 20-minute discussion: Food Security, Commons Perspective. Mary will facilitate.
- Thanks to Heather.

ED NOTES

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

- A. Covenant Stewardship Mandate – next steps
- B. Prepare for Food Security discussion

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

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