

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
www.gabriolacommons.ca
Notes of Meeting of April 5, 2022

Facilitator: Jinny Hayes for Communications Team

Recorder: Deb Ferens for Trustees

Present: K.Louise Vincent, Brenda Fowler, Heather Menzies, Mary Wilson, Don Smardon, David Arnell, Maya Ruggles, Judith Roux, Patrick Roux, Bob Andrew

Regrets: Brenda Joy

Next CCC meeting: May 3, 2022 at 7 pm in Farmhouse upstairs

Facilitator(s): Covenant Team

Recorder: Communication Team

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Agenda

2. Acknowledgements

- appreciation for canoe steaming event
- feeling of deep grief but also hope from attending Michelle Good's session at Island of the Arts Opener about *Five Little Indians*.
- Jinny read Sections #43 to 48 from the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Recommendations.

3. 20 Minute Discussion: Draft Mandate for Covenant Stewardship Team (Deb & K.Louise)

- Hard copies handed out; Attachment A, below.
- Deb read out the one-page Mandate
- Emphasized that this mandate is:
 - o for a team completely separate from the Covenant Team which still has its own work to complete in registering the covenant on title.
 - o time limited with a specific task to draft & create the first Stewardship Plan and have its completion align with the same time that the covenant is registered on title (2024?)
 - o is focused on the Stewardship Agreement/Stewardship Plan Template attached to the Covenant and intended to reflect values of the Covenant & the Baseline Report

Preliminary Comments:

- Heather: would like more clarity in the trajectory between the Covenant Team mandate and this mandate; is intrigued by First Nation references
- Mary: can't quite visualize how a stewardship plan emerges from this mandate
- Don: needs time to digest and thankful for the work done to date.
- Bob: would like to refer to the Covenant and how it relates to a plan
- Dave: thanks for the work
- Maya: clarifying ad hoc stewardship transition group recognition that work on a Stewardship Plan be started.
- Judith: referred to importance of relationship with First Nations.
- Patrick: important relationship between SFU/GES and SFN
- Brenda: recognition that lots of work being done; wonders about the wisdom of putting a Covenant on this land and that perhaps the agreement is more between the

First Nations and the Commons regarding the land rather than government structures.
Action: Send the draft mandate to all teams for further review.
Next Steps: Convene the interim Team – who is interested; Deb to be contact.

4. Following Up from previous meetings

A. Spring Fair – not possible this year. Commitment to revive for next year. Commons Table at Earth Day (April 22) with a seed exchange component will be pursued.

B. Fundraising for Freeze Drier

- what business model should be explored?
- Commons fundraises for the equipment?
- Cost Recovery similar to the Apple Juicer?
- More discussion required.

Replacement Kitchen appliances (Patrick)

- Kitchen equipment is working; no need to replace appliances at this time

C. Logo and website server feedback to Communications Team:

communications@gabriolacommons.ca

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

A. Covenant Stewardship Mandate – next steps

20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding

- Council Review
- Food Security ADDED Apr 5, 2022
- Reinvigorating the Commons ADDED Apr 5, 2022

6. Team and Affiliate Reports

People for a Healthy Community – Brenda (who had to leave the meeting early)

- Seniors and day programs slowly coming back; many still online.
- More Hospice Training coming
- Farmers Market Program has 90 participants and is connected to the Agi Co-op; brings \$50,00 into the community. Coupons can be used to buy protein
- Continue meeting with Commons Trustees Liaisons
- Working on the renewal of 3 year lease

Gabriola Land Steward Society – K. Louise (Commons rep)

- Just had their 2nd AGM
- New Land Trust – non-profit charity
- K will represent the Commons at the first meeting of a Fundraising Collaborative and report back.

Board of Trustees - Deborah

- Working on a number of MOUs and the Lease with PHC; provincial water licensing; also a question from RDN re: skateboard parking in the West Parking lot; researching insurance;
- Next meeting: Tues Apr 26

GAC/Commons Liaison Report - Heather (Attachment B)

- Finalizing the MoU
- Will not need Community Kitchen except for storage/power. There will be Food Trucks this year.
- Wifi usage and speed are being worked out for the MOU (GAC will pay for upgrade).

- MOU being readied for signing.

Community Kitchen Stewards – Patrick

- Kitchen Stewards Team is being revitalized (contact Patrick)
- Should Kitchen be closed while rebuilding the Kitchen Stewards Team?
- Users and stewards must be balanced
- The CK costs ~\$91/day; users should know this; it's a gift to community
- Deb: Need a proposal for the Community Kitchen revitalization
- David: CK shares same issue as other Commons teams in that the "old timers" are getting older and smaller in number.

Action: Mary will work with Patrick re: Bookings and access to CK Bookings

Covenant Team – K.Louise

- Biomapping event held on Mar 20 went really well (Judith)
 - Many polygons have been "adopted" and some are still available.
 - Forms to update any observations by anyone any time are available in the Timberframe and a box is provided there to accept completed forms, or other recorded observations.
- Waiting to hear back from The Land Conservancy re: Covenant Holder status
- TLC has been referring other groups to the COV Team re: our covenant experience; have had two requests for info.
- Working on Team budget
- Next meeting: taking a bit of a break

Farm Team – David

- things are growing; celebrating food and the joy of producing and growing; looking to connect Commons & farmers
- Next meeting

Finance - Mary

- Mary - will send Balance Sheet and Income Statement for Council Notes [**Ed Note:** Attachments C.1 and C.2 going by email to Team Reps, though they cannot be integrated into these Notes; if required, please email communications@gabriolacommons.ca]
 - Donations are declining slightly
- Maya - Budgeting: Call for Team Budgets is Attachment D. So far, PST has enough funds available to complete the projects and maintenance on their list. Timberframe funds need about \$2000 in order to complete the current phase of building (this does not include the 2nd floor deck). Once she receives budgets, she'll formulate recommendations for Council regarding reallocation of funds.
- Next meeting Wed May 4

Learning Opportunities Team – Maya

The Canoe Steaming Ceremony went very well, with lots of lessons learned (including a peek into all that we don't know). The ceremony emphasizes of Transformation, Gifting, and Belonging resonates with our Commons ethic. The next event being organized in collaboration with GES/SFU research team is Wildcrafting with Elders Nancy Turner, Kim Recalma-Clutesi, and Geraldine Manson will be held on May 7th. Maya will be in touch directly with PST/workbees, Kitchen Stewards and other teams. LOT will also include information about our Biomapping activities and connect with Judith.

Property Stewardship Team - Bob

- Lots of projects; the big one right now is the Timberframe which is great for keeping people interested.
- Lots of outdoor bookings for the Timberframe; raises issue of bathroom accessibility. Port-a-potty? New bathroom sited somewhere near the outdoor areas? (Opening the House is a big step right now when we are still in “post-Covid mode”, partially open.)

Share the Commons Team – Judith

- The Wood Working Guild will be meeting with STC on a proposal to situate a drying kiln on the Commons.

South Gardens – Respectfully submitted in writing by Brenda Joy

At our March SCG Coordinating Committee meeting on March 7, 2022, we discussed:

1. SCG involvement as the lead in the Commons 2022 Spring Fair: Due to the short time lead, the SCG CoCo felt they could not take this on at this time. However, it is reasonable that the SCG should be involved in some capacity in the future fairs. The decision was to bring this forward to the SCG membership at our annual business meeting in late summer/early Sept to solicit interest and level of involvement. There could be some SCG volunteers who may want to help out in addition to some CoCo members. This consensus was forwarded to Mitch via the events@commonsgabriola.ca email address.

2. Locking the SCG and cameras: The concern expressed at the March CCC meeting that the SCG was continuing to be locked and cameras were in place was brought forward for discussion.

- Re: cameras - they were not put up for the 2021 gardening season because the garden was locked and there was no theft. The SCG does not plan to put them up this year unless theft becomes problematic again. If this should happen, SCG will engage the CCC accordingly.
- Re: locking the garden – the CoCo and many members feel quite strongly that continuing to lock the garden has resulted in no theft over the past year. The consensus was to continue to lock the garden for this gardening season but to bring this issue forward for review to the membership at the SCG annual business meeting. The garden is open when members are present, and visitors are very welcome to come in. A contact email address is on the new SCG signage should any one wish to visit at any other time.

3. Adding SCG website to Commons Website: I am still waiting on a SCG volunteer name to give to the Communications Team to start that work. A former SCG member developed a SCG website but it is not hosted by a server; therefore, is not accessible by the public. Sharon Arnell is writing a history of the SCG for the website.

4. Other points:

The SCG will be purchasing new wheelbarrows to replace several broken and unwieldy ones and a new bush whacker for gardeners to use around their SCG plots. We also need to purchase a couple of fan rakes.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

ATTACHMENTS

A. Covenant Stewardship Plan Mandate DRAFT March 23, 2022

Purpose:

This mandate directs an interim group to draft the first Gabriola Commons Covenant Stewardship Plan.

Whereas:

We understand that the purpose of the Gabriola Commons Covenant is to ensure the protection, preservation and stewardship of the land as a community commons; that the Covenant outlines three areas of protection: sensitive ecosystems, a working agricultural landscape and multi-purpose community use; and that a comprehensive Baseline Report and a Stewardship Agreement with provisions to create a Stewardship Plan are the core documents within the Covenant.

Whereas:

We are guided by an ethic of care and deep ecology as we commit to healing our relations with First Nations.

We acknowledge that cultivating respect in our relationship with the Snuneymuwx People and the land is integral to building trust with First Nations, to the fulfillment of the Covenant and to the actualization of a Stewardship Plan. We understand the first Stewardship Plan is a sincere step in our commitment to learning about historical legacies and supporting the path of reconciliation.

Objectives:

1. create a working group of a minimum of five participants (including at least one participant from the Covenant Team) with a knowledge of and commitment to the Gabriola Commons
2. develop a methodology for creating the first Stewardship Plan
3. prepare a draft of the first three-year Covenant Stewardship Plan with direct reference to the Covenant including the Baseline Report and Stewardship Agreement
4. commit to development and sensitivity in our relations to First Nations including a welcoming space
5. develop community protocol and education regarding long term stewardship practices at the Commons

Strategies:

1. attend and report regularly to the Commons Coordinating Council
2. review the Covenant and accompanying documents foundational to preparing the first Stewardship Plan
3. review and develop methodological material for creating the first Stewardship Plan based on the guiding principles of the Covenant Stewardship Plan Template
4. collect input from active Common's participants
5. determine a timeline and project costs for developing the first Stewardship Plan
6. communicate with Covenant Holders when necessary and relevant
7. seek guidance from Coast Salish and other First Nations teachings, anti-racism and allyship materials, the Global Commons Movement, and other ecological systems approaches
8. include provisions toward the development of a Gabriola Commons Stewardship Centre

Key Documents and Background Materials:

- Gabriola Commons Covenant (Draft 2018)
- Agriculture Land Commission Approval to register a Gabriola Commons Covenant
- Learning Opportunities documents on the discussion of an Elder Space
- Long Range Planning draft document to create a Stewardship Centre
- Deep Ecology and Global Commons research material

B. Cultivate: GAC-Commons Liaison Team. Meeting Notes of March 24, 2022

Attending:

Carol Fergusson (GAC)

Bob Andrew, Heather Menzies, Doug Scott (Commons Liaison Team)

"Tent"

GAC (owner of the tent) is happy with the existing separate MOU re. the tent, and also about the wooden storage box provided by Gordon Hall.

GAC has budgeted (Cultivate budget) for "Nish" to return again this year to supervise the raising and lowering of the tent.

It's hoped that the 'Tent Club' (headed by Gord H.) will provide a steady source of people who can be trained on how to do this so that in time this can be done, properly, by local volunteers.

"Courtesy Discount"

The key phrase "by mutual agreement" has helped resolve the uncertainty on how to leave this. It's safer for GAC to defer a decision on revoking this until the financials are more clear (i.e. what grants received and ticket sales). Continuing in the good-faith tradition of GAC-Commons dealings, GAC will revisit whether the financial supports coming in are sufficient to warrant removing the courtesy discount. This can be discussed again in a future meeting.

"Kitchen Use" and MOU

It appears that none of the food vendors will be using the Commons kitchen except for storing food in the fridges. This information sparked the question of whether to revisit the daily kitchen charge that has been levied in the MOU once we have a clearer sense of how much power will be required to support the food end of the festival.

So far, Carol reports: The food trucks will be drawing power from the Commons kitchen. There are three trucks. There are six food vendors all together and they all need power. And we are 99% sure that the kitchen will only be used for the fridges.

The discussion about electricity needs also led to a decision to pull together all the people involved in the electricity-drawing elements of the festival to meet with members of the Commons Property Stewardship Team (CST). (See "Actions arising" below)

"Wifi" at the Commons

The surprise of the outstanding bill from Shaw to GAC for WIFI access at the Commons has left unresolved how best to address the need for WIFI across the Commons, not just in the farmhouse, which the Commons currently maintains.

Carol indicated that GAC would be willing to pay half the cost of such a service if the Commons was able to secure a deal with "Lightspeed" for WIFI there. (This would also make it easier for GAC to hold other events at the Commons.)

"Post-Cultivate" de-brief and MOU review

There wasn't really a discussion of this. Mostly a confirmation that helping facilitate a post-Cultivate review of what worked well and what could be improved would be part of wrapping up our GAC-Commons liaison team meetings, plus noting new ideas for next year. A March 10/22 email from Deborah Ferens mentioned the desire by representatives of the Gabriola Commons Foundation to review the MOU; this would be an important part of this review process and involve at least one trustee representing the foundation. (There was some informal chat within our team about ensuring that a trustee is included in the liaison team in future.)

Actions Arising:

1. Key 'lead' people associated with the festival (Larry, Gord plus Ron and Gwen) will meet with the PST at the Commons on a Saturday, after the morning work bee (at noon: in time to join the post-bee lunch). Carol will canvas possible dates with the leads involved and forward these to the team. Bob is checking availability of other PST members. Carol, Doug and Heather will also attend. This meeting should yield clarity on probable electricity costs for Cultivate.
2. Communicate key information from this meeting to the trustees:
 1. the changed status of kitchen use during Cultivate, with possible revision outstanding;
 2. the possibility of getting a new WIFI service at the Commons –Lightspeed, as a Commons service;
 3. clarifying hopes and expectations re. post-Cultivate review, and ensuring timely GCF involvement.
3. Bringing the WIFI question to Council so all teams can know and offer thoughts. Questions include: who will call Lightspeed to ascertain the cost of annual installation and removal versus ongoing monthly expense? Coordinating this with Carol to ensure smooth transition from Shaw (or negotiate reduced price equivalent to Lightspeed) since the account is presently in GAC's name is critical. It makes sense that the GCF assumes responsibility for the account going forward.
4. Date of our next meeting to be determined after we've received feedback from trustees.

C.1 Gabriola Commons Foundation Balance Sheet As at 02/28/2022

C.2 Gabriola Commons Foundation Balance Sheet As at 02/28/2022

D. Call for Team Budgets

Budgets – it's that time again

It feels appropriate that springtime rings in a new fiscal year for the Gabriola Commons!

While these may seem like lofty possibilities for such a humble activity, allowing some time for a little team/group budgeting can support several things:

- “The numbers tell a story” – budgeting is a tool for participating in the creation of our stories – the stories of the teams and project groups that *make up* the Gabriola Commons;
- Collective budgeting can assist with reviewing/exploring the purpose and direction of a team and/or project group;
- Collective budgeting can inspire appreciation and assist in building a healthy field of resources - needed to achieve our purposes.

In appreciation of each team and project group's work and self-determination, I offer the following comment and supports:

• Having good tools and practices for budgeting can empower teams and project groups. The Finance team has begun developing some convivial budgeting tools*, with the intention of sharing these tools with teams and project groups. Here are a few things we can offer this year:

- ✓ a list of probing questions for guiding group discussion of the budget (see below)
- ✓ template budget (attached)
- ✓ in-person visit to help develop a budget and explore simple ways to steward it at the team or project-group level
- ✓ session(s) for setting up some team-based budget-to-actual tracking, and interval check-ins with the Finance team to check against the book balance.

Also, if there is interest in participating in a Commons-wide budgeting session(s), please let me know.

Probing Questions for collective budgeting:

- What do you want to do? Both practical things, such as maintaining something that holds value, and broader things, such as how we might contribute to a world we want to see and experience.
 - ✓ Over the coming year?
 - ✓ Over the next 3 to 5 to 10 years?
- What do you want to commit to? What are the team priorities? What will be the outcomes of our efforts (potential)? Who/what will benefit?
 - ✓ In the short term?
 - ✓ In the medium term (range)?
 - ✓ In the longer term?
- What kinds of skills are needed?
 - ✓ Who (individual / group) might have those skills?

- ✓ Could these skills be developed/shared (would taking this direction need another set of skills)?
- What kinds of knowledge/information would be helpful?
 - ✓ What are some sources of knowledge/information (people/other sources)?
- What kinds of things (stuff/materials) are required?
 - ✓ How can they be acquired?
 - ✓ If bought, how much would they cost (estimate)
- Are there maintenance needs? Maintenance costs (materials, energy)? What's the maintenance timeline?
- Do we need to pay for a person's time (required for certification, skilled labour not available otherwise, honoraria)?

“Convivial Tools is a term inspired by Ivan Illich’s *Tools for Conviviality* (1973). It refers to tools, technologies, and infrastructures that strengthen creativity and self-determination, such as everyday, general-purpose tools, the patterns for COMMONING we suggest in this book, or open source software-based tools such as OpenStreetMap. Convivial tools are important because “we shape our tools and afterwards our tools shape us,” as Marshall McLuhan reminds us. A tool is convivial if people have access to the design and knowledge needed to create it; if it allows creative adaptation to one’s own circumstances; and if it is appropriate in the specific local context. (Are suitable materials and skills available? Is it compatible with the local landscape and culture?) Convivial tools are fundamentally empowering because they help people discover and develop their own priorities, learning capacities and skills. They emancipate us from proprietary closed tools that interfere with personal learning, sharing, modification and re-use. However, the use of convivial tools can be impractical in some circumstances because of their time demands.”

Bollier and Helfrich (2019) *Free, Fair & Alive: The Insurgent Power of the Commons*, New Society Publishers

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 A collaborative effort of the Finance Team
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 March 2022

