Commons Coordinating Council (CCC) www.gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of Meeting of April 4, 2023

Co-facilitators: Cameron Murray (Trustees)
Recorder: Deb Ferens (Bookings Team)
Present: Dave Lightly, LJ Kelly, Heather Menzies, Gloria Filax, Patrick Colvin, Nancy Hethrington-Peirce, Robbie Huston, Deb Ferens

Next CCC meeting: May 2 at 7 pm.
Facilitator(s) for next meeting: Gloria Filax (Trustees)
Recorder for next meeting: Covenant Team

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Agenda Review

2. Acknowledgements

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action - Reconciliation: 45.i; 46 ii; 47, 49 Doctrine of Discovery

3. Clarification of previous meeting's notes

A. Heather sought to clear up confusion left from the March 7/ 23 meeting discussion re. Whether responsibility to follow through on having a structural engineer assess the goat barn was still with the PST.
See notes on the discussion that followed, attached: Goat Barn Discussion Mar 7/23 Council Notes

4. For Teams' discussion & follow-up at next Council meeting: None recorded

5. 20 Minute Discussion - for May 2 meeting - Code of Conduct - Process Team

6. 20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding

- Council Review
- Volunteer Recruitment (from Communication Team)
- [Add any new topics that come up at the current meeting]

7.20 Minute Discussion

Commons Review (Jan 2023) — Clarity of Purpose — Heather

Heather presented a report on the Commons' purpose meeting (co-facilitated by her and Robbie Huston) and next steps. See attached for the full report.
Next Steps:

At this point, Robbie is bowing out, to concentrate on other commitments he's taken on here at the Commons. But he supports Heather in a final initiative to bring this rich discussion to a good conclusion.

She will prepare a single pager titled something like "Testing for consensus."

It will begin with the short conceptual statements of what constitutes the commons' purpose, followed by some sample ways of stating these in simple, clear sentences, combining these into a composite short para.

This will go out to all who attended the commons review & also to all the teams to consider, and get back with any suggested additional language and what if anything they can't accept.

If the response suggests a general consensus, Heather take this to the Communication Team, join it and use it as the basis of some new communication to the community — including perhaps a FAQ item on our website.

Attached: Report on Commons' Purpose Gathering & Next Steps (March 19, 2023)

8. Team Reports:

Board of Trustees -No Report

- Wed Apr 19

Bookings - No Report

Communications (Nancy Hethrington-Peirce)

- This is Nancy's last Council meeting with Communications Team - we thank her so much for her participation and input;
- Nancy reviewed the Communications Team Mandate, current tasks and the questions: Who will do these tasks after April? How are new members recruited for Commons Teams? Nancy offered three suggestions for consideration (sent to note taker to record accuracy):

1. That the Trustees Team permanently take on managing the roster of facilitators for Council meetings

Reason: the TT is the only team that is certain to have members at all times (because there are always trustees elected for the Commons > Foundation Society)

2. Until a new Communications Team is active, that the Trustees Team temporarily take on ensuring the monthly meeting notes are sent to all teams approx two weeks after the meeting (I'm attaching the list of the contact people that Jinny gave to me)

Reason: As above

3. That the topic of "Volunteer Recruitment" is on the agenda of every monthly Council meeting.

Reason: To ensure there is ongoing attention is paid to finding new volunteers, so the Council is acting proactively re this difficult topic.

The first two suggestions will be forwarded to the Trustees for their consideration and the third suggestions is for Council attention.

- Heather will join Communications Team
-
- Community Kitchen Stewards - No Report
  - Next meeting

Covenant Team - No Report
- Next meeting

Covid-19 Group - No Report
- Next meeting

Design Group - No Report
- Next meeting

Event Planning - No Report
- Next meeting

Farm Team - No Report
- Next meeting

Finance (Gloria Filax)
- The website (which Jinny with Communications looked after) will now be an operating cost with Colleen McCarthy.
- Next meeting: April 24, 2023 at noon

Grant Writing Team - No Report •
Next meeting:

Infrastructure Team - No Report
- Next meeting

Labyrinth Group - No Report
- Next meeting

Learning Opportunities Team (Robbie Huston)
- Biochar Workshop Sat April 15, 9am to 5pm
- Next meeting

Long Range Planning Team — No Report
- Next meeting

Newcomer Team (Patrick Colvin)
- Thanks to Patrick for stepping forward with this action.

Patrick will send his report to recorder for the Council Notes (see below).

Offering a place for Newcomers to land and observe The Commons before joining one of the many teams. You are welcome, please join in.

Contact: Patrick Colvin newcomers[atlgabriolacommons.ca

Property Stewardship Team (Heather Menzies on behalf of PST)

• Nobody from the Property Stewardship Team was willing to attend Council this month.

See attached report from PST

• Next meeting

Share the Commons Team - No Report

• Next meeting

The Process Team - Dave Lightly

• Dave suggested the topic for the 20 minute discussion at May 2nd council meeting: Code of Conduct

• Next meeting

Timberframe Team — No Report

• Next meeting

Trails and Green Spaces Team - No Report

• Next meeting

Workshop Stewards - No Report

• Next meeting

9. Goat Barn Toilets (Robbie Huston)

- Work has started on a toilet in the Goat Barn for public use (Robbie, Patrick R and Neil)
- A Budget was submitted to Trustees & Finance
- Toilet budget to be funded by Capital Reserve funds
- Combination lock on Community Kitchen bathroom will be changed Discussion ensued regarding the creation of toilet project team:
- The Field Guide was brought forward regarding process for projects and task forces.
  - Shouldn't the new project have been brought forward to Council at least twice before approval?
  - The Sharing the Commons Team has a role in creation of new project team.
- Finance - confusion regarding expenses already incurred for the toilet
  - How did the project emerge? Discussions at Sat workbee - Idea for creating public toilet in the goat barn. PST pulled back when it seemed the toilet couldn't be built in time for upcoming outdoor events season and explored interim idea of renting port-apotty.

- The idea for public toilets instead of port-a-potties was brought to Mar 7 meeting. Other factors to consider: team to team discussion outside of Council often moves a project along; how does team autonomy work?

Following discussion: consensus to proceed with goat barn toilet project while noting strongly voiced concerns be registered especially regarding setting precedents around decision making and process outlined in the Field Guide.

10. Affiliate Reports — None to report

ATTACHMENT:

GOAT BARN Discussion re: Mar 7/23 council notes

Heather Menzies

March 7/23 council notes, addendum.

Heather wished to clarify some confusion arising from a statement in the notes pertaining to the goat barn discussion: specifically re the status of having the goat barn assessed by a structural engineer, which PST has set in motion to be done as soon as the engineer is available.

The following points emerged in the discussion:

- No decision was made at the March council meeting, by those attending the meeting, to suspend the PST's undertaking this.
- The finance team had tentatively earmarked a recent donation to the Commons, which itself was earmarked for the goat barn project, as a source of funds to pay for this assessment.
- The impetus for having this done came from an ad-hoc group wanting to move the goat barn forward, at least one member of which (Andreas Kahre) had attended initial planning meetings for the goat barn project organized by the LRP and STC teams. Having a structural engineer verify the viability of the goat barn project was seen as a necessary preliminary step to establishing the goat barn project.
- One person associated with that ad-hoc group (Lino Vella Gregory), who was also a member of the PST, asked this team to take on this task, which it agreed to do.
- The people who identified themselves at the March meeting as interested in being part of the goat barn project team have been put in touch with each other, but have yet to meet and start drafting their team mandate.
- The bookings team has been reluctant to rent the goat barn to community groups until the engineer's assessment is done.
- An impasse was reached when two people recalled Bob Andrews having told the March 7 meeting that he'd suspend the engineer's scheduled visit, though Heather had no such recollection of his having said this. Heather then withdrew her request for clarification - though promising to follow up on someone's suggestion to check with Bob.

ATTACHMENT:

Report on Commons' Purpose Gathering & next Steps.

March 19, 2023

Purpose: to try to find clarity and consensus on the Commons' Purpose.

Present:.
Heather Menzies and Robbie Huston - co-facilitators
Patrick Roux, Judith Roux, Patrick Colvin, Deb Ferens ,Susie/Zsuzsi Huebsch, Doug Scott, Maya Ruggles

After a welcome (with coffee & goodies), land acknowledgements and protocol agreements, I reviewed a handout that attempted to distill the essence of the various purpose statements that had been crafted by individuals after the review meetings, and to match their main points with the Commons Charter and guiding principles plus the covenant preamble.

An overarching purpose that emerges is: the community sharing this common land for mutual benefit and sustainability.
At least 3 purposes are nested within this, repeatedly identified as integral to the Commons' purpose:
-1.The intertwined day-to-day functions of the Commons - the ecological, agricultural, social and cultural.
- 2.The organizational functions of the commons & how we relate to each other --the inclusive, respectful, non-hierarchial self-governing commons, or commoning, practices
-3.Learning how to be a commons and how to be a commoner in the 21st. Century, through innovation and transformational learning.

We found a lot of agreement, and there didn't seem to be any missing element of what constitutes the Commons' purpose. However we didn't reach consensus around this as an integrated summation of the Commons' purpose Then we moved on to generating a way of stating the Commons' purpose in a short simple way., with some draft sentences in the handout as discussion starters. Most of these seemed fine with most of us, and there was some agreement to the notion of nesting ("bullets" people said) the more functional purposes within a simple overarching statement of purpose. But none stood out as a clear and complete overall one. We also ran out of time and energy.. Still, was glad to see that they aligned well with each of the conceptualized purpose elements.
Read a few:
The Purpose of the Gabriola Commons is:

-To share a common land for ecological protection ,organic agriculture,, and community well-being in perpetuity.
-Hold a space for community sharing a common land.
- A social system for long-term stewardship of resources.
-A place for learning, agriculture, sustainability and ecological practises.
-For the community to share a common land.
- Part of the purpose is learning what commoning is; commoning practices.
- To practise living in an ecological way.
-All voices come together as one.
- Listening to the land.
- A place for transformational learning.

Three general points that emerged in the discussion are also worth highlighting:

1) the urgency of having consensus around a clear sense of the Commons purpose. One person identified its absence as a "barrier to entry" to the Commons & it came up at the first meeting of the governance review group; how helpful that would be for their work.

2) The commons is too complex to be reduced to a single stand-alone sentence; you risk "dumbing it down"

3) the need to have as many Commons participants as possible endorse a summary/integrated statement of the Commons purpose, which can then confidently be communicated to the Gabriola community as the voice of the Commons.

Next Steps:

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ATTACHMENT:
PST - Report to Council
2023 04 04

Nobody from the Property Stewardship Team was willing to attend Council this month. So below please deliver our report.
Don Smardon, Kim Kasasian, Bob Andrew, Lino Vella Gregory and Neil Ruttan

Roof leak Farmhouse - Leaking is minimal, which is fine for now, but we need a long term solution, preferably before winter.
House cleaning — anyone who wants, can stay for a few minutes after workbee lunch and do a bit of cleaning.
Ground levelling - Won't be doing this in Spring 2023. More discussion is needed.
Hedge - decided to experiment by feeding some of the hedge with alpaca poop and some with purchased organic fertilizer. The whole hedge will be mulched using wood chips.
Mapping systems and maintenance schedules - Kim has set up a maintenance schedule. We need more info signs conveniently located at the various systems. We also need a "Who to call sheet, posted at various strategic points on The Commons.
Garbage - We have discussed how to deal with garbage from forest camps and people using the commons garbage can for their garbage. We are requesting a larger garbage can from the RDN.
But this is only one strategy for reducing our solid waste. More ideas needed.
Work Shop — The South wall of the workshop has been replaced and is ready for siding. We have not yet decided when this will happen. A big thank you for all who helped at the two workbees. You were awesome!