Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriola commons.ca

Notes of Meeting of 4 June 2024

Facilitator: Jinny Hayes; Recorder: Deb Ferens

Present: Bob Andrew (Timer), Kim Kasasian, Heide Brown, Brenda Joy, Heather Menzies, Patrick Olmsted, Brent O'Malley, Cameron Murray, LJ Kelly

Regrets: Brenda Fowler, PHC

Next CCC meeting: July2, 2024 at 7pm
Facilitator: Bob Andrew Note Taker: Deb Ferens

Meeting Format: Three value areas: ecological, agricultural & community.

1) **Welcome and Introductions**
2) **Land Acknowledgement:** Bob Andrew
3) **Team Reports**

Communications – Heather Menzies

- Wrote short piece on historical commons for website and circulated to the Covenant Team for comment. (Copies available for anyone else interested in seeing it before posting. Plus Scottish photo being considered as accompaniment.)
- Drafted a new Commons brochure with trail map on one side, and three panels of information on the other, drfat circulated for comment (See attached). Q: Commons founded in 2005 or 2008? A: 2005
- Working with Cameron Murray on some small revisions to map for brochure use.
- Obtained rough quote from Gallery Press ($390 for 500 copies). Requesting special funds for this. Deb will take request to Finance.
- Hope to have brochures ready for Cultivate in July.
- Erin Udall, ED of the Gabriola Chamber is interested in stocking the brochure at Info. Centre.
- Have drafted a short notice about Sat. workbees for publication in Sounder under "Weekly events" column.

Woodwork Shop – Patrick Olmsted

- Focus on personal safety regarding using the equipment in the Workshop
- Mandate to be developed.
- Many community members love to participate but stay

South Garden – Brenda Joy – no report

The Process Team – Commons Agreement - Brenda Joy

- The Gabriola Commons Agreement (see attached)

- Reviewing feedback that has been received regarding the Poster and incorporating feedback into revised draft – which will be attached to these notes for further review.
- Second round of feedback at July meeting.
- Volunteer Agreement Form – Feedback by next Council (see attached). ACTION: Jinny to send out to team reps.

Further discussion if there is time at the end of the meeting.

Conflict Management Task Group – Brenda Joy

Covers 7 May until 4 June 2024.

- Group members: Brenda Joy, Dave Lightly, Bob Andrew, Jen Turner.
- Met 17 May (hybrid meeting, Heather Menzies attended), 30 May (Zoom).
- Work accomplished:
    - **17 May mtg:** Reviewed (1) 7 May Council feedback on the Gabriola Commons Agreement – Poster document (V3_ 3 May 2024) (2) feedback from Heather Menzies, and revised the Agreement – Poster document accordingly.
    - **30 May mtg:** Reviewed Team feedback (Governance Team, Heather Menzies) received. Further revisions to the Agreement – Poster (new version is V6_30 May 2024) were completed. The group considers this version close to final. This version is attached to this report and is to be forwarded to the Teams for a 2nd round of feedback before discussion at the 2 July Council.
    - The Gabriola Commons Volunteer Agreement was revised using all feedback received to date (new version is V9_30 May 2024). The Volunteer Agreement includes the Agreement-Poster content plus further detail (Diversity, Communication, Personal Behaviour, Teamwork and Decision Making). This version is attached to this report and is to be forwarded to the Teams for a first review.
    - Questions and Team feedback can be sent through the Process Team at process@gabriolacommons.ca

Other news:

- Next step – The group is now working to develop protocols for restorative action should conflict/disagreements occur in the Commons

Date, time and place of the next meeting: 17 June 2024 at 2 pm.

Trustees – No Report

Trail Walking (Trustee oversight)– Deb Ferens

Report covers the period of: April – May 2024

- Trail walking is going relatively well.
- There are between 6 to 10 people that walk the trails weekly.
- Could still use more walkers.
- We are thankful to Gabriola Outreach and Margaret for the support and direction.
- The RCMP continues to be available upon request and also do some checks on their own.
- Litter and garbage is picked up during each walk – though less and less.
- There is one recent camper that has been asked to move along by the RCMP
- Signage (“No fires”; “No Drugs, No Alcohol, No Smoking”) is helping.

Peer Governance – Jinny Hayes

Report covers the period of the last 2 months.

- Met once to continue our revision of the 2021 *Field Guide*. Now temporarily titled *The Gabriola Commons: An Introduction*, we're gearing it more towards helping everyone to understand the (complex) Commons better. We're still welcoming input on Peer Governance and received some this week; If anyone has ideas, please e.mail Jinny at vhayes@uvic.ca. We will table the document at Council and send to teams for feedback when it's ready.
- There are a couple of spin-offs from this project:
- Re-examination of the decision-making documents
- Evaluation of the team framework. This is drafted and will come to Council in July.
    - As previously reported, we've updated the Participation Form; but need to look at the Membership Form, and donation forms.
- *Date, time and place of next meeting*: Saturday June 8 at 2.30 at the Commons

Bookings – Deb Ferens

Bookings – not technically a team

Report covers the period of: Apr-June 2024

Highlights (3-4 main points):

- Farmhouse Bookings are going well though the problem remains of doors left open/unlocked when renter leaves. Janice is very diligent about reminding folks to lock doors and windows, to put chairs away and to sweep the floor.
- Outdoor Bookings are down somewhat this season. Probably due to the many new venues that are available. Our community is so lucky to have so many great venues of various sizes.
- Quest to find someone to do the Outdoor Bookings continues as Janice temporarily fills in. No responses from the AD in the Sounder. Personal contacts and a facebook call out have also been unsuccessful.
- The Tent will be installed over the Reservoir this month – a bit later than normal.

Date, time and place of next meeting: None scheduled

Cultivate/Commons Liaison Group – Heather Menzies

- Did a site visit to establish boundaries of Cultivate festival activities, to scope out the Green Room and other facilities (bathroom, equipment storage, access ramp) performers will require and to identify possible location of food trucks, port-a-potties, performer parking, merch table and ticketing at entrance.
- Festival runs July 11 to 14th, with all Commons events at the Reservoir Stage.
- Also roughed out tasks for a Art Council/Commons joint workbee July 6: 9-12; 1-4, plus tasks that the Commons teams (primarily PST) will tackle prior to that date (e.g. power washing the goat barn bathroom and green room ready for painting July 6.)
- Chelsea has produced an Excel Spreadsheet of these tasks and related info.

TAGS – Heather Menzies

- Good feedback from trail map being published in *Sounder;* surprise and delight to know there are these trails.
- Based on suggestions for small changes to map, revisions being planned, along with turning it into a new Commons brochure in time for Cultivate.

- With clarification that the new connector path being added to the GaLTT trail license, will not interfere with boundaries of the Cultivate Festival, a go-ahead note sent to GaLTT.
- Working with PST to remove a patch of wild roses and replace with one or two additional shade trees(Budget pending).

Property Stewardship Team – Kim Kasasian
- Some issues still remaining with Farmhouse doors being left open/unlocked by renters.
- The Goat Barn toilet is now locked and will only be open for Booked events.
- There is still the occasional camper.; RCMP Jake called if required.
- More fire signs and other signs going up.
- Cleaning up the property, eg, piano, plastic container removal.
- Slowly converting from gas-powered equipment.

Deferred Issue: people donating item to the Commons without following any guidelines.

Community Kitchen – Brent O'Malley

Report covers the period of: May 2024

Highlights (3-4 main points):
- The water damage caused by the burst pipe in January has still not been repaired. A contractor submitted a proposed budget to our insurance company, who approved the work and then the contractor went out of business! We only learned about this after soliciting a status report. A second contractor has come and assessed the work and submitted it to the insurance company but as of May 31 had still not given the green light for the work. Once approved, work should start about 3 weeks later and take one week to complete.
- At the beginning of May the dishwasher stopped working. After much discussion about how to proceed we elected to bring in the technical specialist from Nanaimo to hopefully fix the problem. It took some time to troubleshoot but the problem was resolved (blown fuse). The dishwasher now seems to work better than ever. Cost: $835.46 for the service call. Savings: about $14,000 since we did not buy a new one.
- We located a source for stoves in Victoria that seemed to offer a good price for decent models. After conferring with industry professionals at VIU we agreed to purchase a slightly used EFI 6 burner stove and a new EFI grill top. Cost: about $5000. We picked the two items up in Victoria last week, got them placed into the kitchen this past Saturday and the gas was hooked up Sunday. Despite assurance from the seller over the phone and at the time of pickup, the used stove was plumbed for natural gas and not propane! Our plan is to bring the used stove back to Victoria tomorrow and get a new stove. Cost: about $800 more though we are going to strenuously argue for a larger discount.
- We will next meet next Thursday, June 13.

Farm Team – Heather Menzies
- Contributed to cost of purchasing an e.lawnmower; initiated by North Gardeners, and with part of cost coming from funds Bob Martin raised for the Commons.
- All well in the orchard, the kitchen garden and Little Field.

Special Events – Jinny Hayes
- Without a team, the 4 signature Commons Events/Fundraisers have not being happening as they were before COVID.

- Spring Fall – cancelled just after it started organizing
- Garage Sale – moved to August 18, 10-2 pm. Pre-announcement will be out shortly.
- Fall Fair – will need new coordination this year.
  Bob mentioned that Farm to Table will not be happening this year based on information he received from Lynn Bowerman. F2T was not a Commons Event but still a very significant and valuable event on the Commons and highly regarded by the Community.

Trail Walkers – Deborah Ferens

- There is less litter and garbage lately and currently one camper.
- Police also do some monitoring.
- New signs are going up.
- Trustees are keeping a log , eg, hours, costs, etc.
- Commended for good collective action and leadership.

Gabriola Health and Well-being Collaborative – LJ Kelly

- LJ is now the Commons rep to the Collaborative, replacing Bob.
- Many thanks to LJ and to Bob for his previous representation to the Collaborative
- LJ mentioned the hiring of a part-time coordinator and will provide more details as this position evolves.