Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

Notes of Meeting of 6 August 2024

Facilitator: Bob Andrew (exchanging with Heide); Recorder: Jinny Hayes

Present: Gloria Filax, Kim Kasasian, Heide Brown, Brenda Joy, Heather Menzies, David Lightly, Deb Ferens, Marti Wright, Greg Blee, Bobbi Rose O'Brien.

Next CCC meeting: September 3, 2024 at 7pm Farmhouse
Facilitator: Deb Ferens. Note Taker: Jinny Hayes
Written Reports to: council@gabriolacommons.ca
Meeting Format: Three value areas: ecological, agricultural & community.

1) **Welcome and Introductions**

2) **Land Acknowledgement:** Deb Ferens: Examples of Truth and Reconciliation

3) **Team Reports**

Events (Bobbi and Jinny)

A. Fall Fair – Bobbi O'Brien (written report submitted)
Bobbi introduced herself as a member of the Farm Team, a regular workbee volunteer and a helper in management of the orchard. She's also a director on the board of the Agi Co-op where she's helping to organize Apple Fest this year, and through being involved with both organizations, she sees a lot of overlap and potential for collaboration between the two.

- **DATE: Sunday October 6.**
- The Commons Fall Fair and the Agi Co-op's Apple Fest are two related Fall harvest events that have been building in momentum the past couple of years, but due to limited capacity both organizations are stretched to organize them this year. She and a few other people have had the idea of throwing a joint event on October 6th, A Fall Fair/Apple Fest here at the Commons, to combine our efforts and hopefully trial the beginning of a mutually beneficial working relationship between the two organizations.
- There will be usual vegetable competitions, baking contests, apple juicing and displays, and there would be vintage farm machinery on display, some market booths, and we will have live music, food and drink.
- The idea behind this event is to hold a harvest fair and festival that brings the community as well as these two organizations together. Would also like to raise the profile and boost volunteer engagement in both organizations so there could be an info booth for getting involved in each.
- She took this idea forward to the rest of the AGI Co-op Board and they support it.
- There's a working group with representatives from both organizations: for AGI: Simon & Bobbi; for Commons: Heather & a Kitchen Steward.
- Advertising: Fair Schedule online, *Sounder*, Facebook, etc.
- More to follow; open to ideas: bobbiroseobrien@gmail.ca
  Discussion:
  • Grub Huggers are interested in helping to raise funds for the Community Kitchen

• Suggest a dog show, which has been very popular at past Fairs.
• Reminder to include the Commons Finance Team and the Treasurer in planning.

B. Garage Sale – Jinny Hayes
• Will be held rain or shine Sunday August 18, 10-2 pm, at the Commons, co-sponsored by Sustainable Gabriola 12-12-12. Fundraiser for the Commons.
• 35 tables have been booked; tables still available.
• Help still needed for set-up, take-down, Commons table, food sales. Contact: vhayes@uvic.ca
• Food: Snacks and canned drinks only for sale.

TAGS – Heather Menzies
- New trail marker signs are coming from GaLTT.
- Will need help to get these in the ground on short notice. David S and Deb F volunteered.

Council Stewards – Deb Ferens (written report submitted)
Report covers the period of: July 2024
Reminder that we're trying to focus reports at Council Meetings on the 3 grounding values of the Commons: ecology, farming, community.

• Team information for website is being updated/tidied up.
• Call out for interest in helping the Council Stewards in facilitating and note-taking at Council.
• Also a call out for folks to go on a roster to do the Land Acknowledgements at meetings.
• Time to prepare for Council Stewards Team turnover – call out for interest in any of these 3 aspects of Council Meetings.
• Reconciliation Statement for website – for consideration:

> The Gabriola Commons respectfully acknowledges that we are on land that is part of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. We are grateful for their traditional stewardship of this land since time immemorial.

Date, time and place of next meeting: Monday, Aug 22 at 2:30 pm.

Peer Governance – Jinny Hayes

Report covers the last month, one meeting.
• We think that this task group has pretty nearly finished our work. Established in February last year as an outcome of the Commons review held Feb 5, we were charged with Examining Governance on the Commons. Starting with 8 members, we are completing our work with 5: Alison, Bob, Deb, Heide and Jinny.
• We mapped and submitted to Council a statement on Peer Governance (which was accepted), and then took on a major revision of the 2021 Commons *Handbook.* That work will be finished by e.mail, and should not require another in-person meeting. We are particularly pleased to have also revised our documents on decision making. These 2 items (*Introduction to the Gabriola Commons* and the policy on decision-making) will come to Council in September.
• FYI, other policies previously in the *Handbook* (financial guidance, tree cutting and so on) will shortly be retrievable from the website.
• Finally, our recommendations to evaluation of the team framework were presented to the last Council and were in the July Council Notes. We look forward to teams' feedback.
Date, time and place of next meeting: None!

Discussion
• Please circulate the 2 documents in advance. **ACTION: for Sept agenda**
A: *Introduction to the Gabriola Commons* will be circulated in full as soon as it is ready.
• Need an opportunity to discuss team structure, in context of how we do things on the Commons, eg, the proposed affiliated teams such as the labyrinth and Trails and Green Spaces. Affiliates can be applied to others as well, eg, Goat Barn and PST, allotment teams and Farm Team.
• Could be the work of an ad hoc group. **ACTION: for Sept agenda.**
• Good when teams work well but sometimes there are cliques.

Trustees – Bob Andrew
- No Report.

Finance Team – Gloria Filax
• No Report.
• $5,000 has been received from the RDN to assist with electrical upgrade to the Community Kitchen, but $18,000 is needed

Property Stewardship Team – Kim Kasasian (written report submitted)
• PST has 2 new members - Tanner and Simon, both very capable people.
• The Fire Dept. did an inspection of the buildings and made various recommendations, which we are working through, slowly.
• The equipment shed has been cleaned out and it is now locked.
• A pile of garbage from the Goat Barn and the equipment shed will be picked up by Gabriola Disposal next Tues.
• The saga with the irrigation (leak, pump, etc.) is ongoing. The area of the leak has been narrowed down and a bypass will be installed to get water to the South Gardens. We still don't know why the new pump is failing to do its job.
• There is still plenty of water in the pond and the reservoir.
Discussion
• Team was thanked for all their work.

South Gardens – Brenda Joy (written report submitted)
Report covers the period of: 2 July to 6 August, 2024; Last meeting 10 July (monthly).
• The South Commons Garden (SCG) Coordinating Committee (CoCo) agreed to donate $475.00 to the Commons for the new pump and plumbing expenses.
• Irrigation to the South Commons Garden (SCG) continues to be intermittent, and there has been no water in the past three days. SC Gardeners are concerned about their crops and frustrated at the ongoing situation. Bob Andrews has provided a recent update with favorable news and has toured some of the CoCo through the system so that we can better understand the problems and communicate the issues back to the gardeners. There is a plan to run a bypass from the reservoir to the SCG to provide water until the issue with the leak can be resolved. Thank you to Bob and his team and other SCG gardeners, Kevin Chopin, Blair Mann who have been helping.
• Date to be decided for a joint garden social and exchange of gardening experiences (Farm Team initiative). Tentative date – Sunday, 8 September.
• We are planning ahead for our annual general meeting (AGM) with the SCG community membership, possibly end Sept at the Commons Farmhouse with a meal to follow. Expected topics of discussion include water conservation, and a proposal to create a backup emergency irrigation system in the SCG

(cisterns).
• We are actively recruiting more members to our Coordinating Committee (CoCo).
• Registration for plots for the 2025 gardening season will be in Fall 2024.
Date, time, and place of next meeting: Aug 14, 2024.
Discussion
Q: What is the state of the Pond? **A:** Fairly health because it has not been drawn down this summer.
Q: Is there a long-term plan for the pond, because it is filling in now. **A.** It will need dredging.
Q: Does the beaver dam help much? **A:** Not really.

Conflict Management Task Group - Brenda Joy
Covers 17 July until 6 August, 2024; Met 26 July on Zoom.
• Group members: Brenda Joy, Dave Lightly, Bob Andrew, Jen Turner.
• Work accomplished:
    • Reviewed *Part II: Toward addressing the need for behavioural accountability and conflict-resolution in a Commons Agreement* in the document *"Discussion Starter Notes – Towards a Commons "Agreement" on respectful behaviour & accountability for this"*
    • Brainstormed ideas for conflict management processes, roles and accountability on the Commons.
    • Group consensus that a glossary of terms is needed to establish a common understanding of words used in the Commons Agreement, and other terms relevant to the Commons. These include definitions of conflict, disagreement, abusive behaviour, harassment, bullying, breaking off relations, and restorative action.
• Other news: The final draft of the Commons Agreement Poster was sent to all Teams with the July 2024 notes. Teams were asked to review the draft and send their responses (approved, not approved, and if not approved – their reasons for blocking approval) through the Process Team at process@gabriolacommons.ca before the Sept 2024 Council meeting.
• Questions can be sent through the Process Team at process@gabriolacommons.ca

Community Kitchen – Marti Wright (written report submitted)
Report covers the month of July 2024.
• After eight months after the pipe burst above the kitchen, Vinmar Construction is now repairing the damaged ceiling.
• In early June, the Hobart dishwasher was out of commission for a few weeks due to waiting for a service technician to fix it. Also, the Ecolab soap/sanitizer dispenser refill was empty. Two soap refills were ordered and delivered and are now operational. Finding the proper refills for the kitchen dispenser was difficult since the manufacturer discontinued this model. Although expensive, the refills should last for two to three years. Replacing the current dispenser system must be on our radar in a few years.
• New stoves were installed and are in good working order.
• There has been a problem with the exhaust fan breaker tripping this week, and Evan from Emc2 electrical will look at it.
Discussion
• As already noted, $18K is the estimate for needed electrical work. Will call in an electrician; ACTION: Bob to supply name of electrician.
• Please keep Finance informed.
• Fundraising is needed; article on this pending from Heather. Fall Fair fundraising could feature the funding needed to develop the Community Kitchen.

• Clearly state the beneficiary of fundraising efforts. The South Gardens would like to contribute to the CK also.
• Other $$ needs are: PST, a farmhouse elevator; water piping.

Adjournment: 8.20 pm!