Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

Written Reports to: council@gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of meeting Sept 02, 2025

Facilitator: Jinny Hayes

Notes: David Lightly

Timer: Bob Andrew

Present: Kim Kasasian, Janice Robinson, Bill McCallum, Betty Keller, Heather Menzes, Diane Conrad

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome

2. Land Acknowledgement

Heather acknowledged our presence on the territory of Snuneymuxw. She related the impact that a story about Orlebar Point, told by Elliot White, had on her.

3. Agenda Approval

4. Team Reports:

Trustees — Bob

AGM Sat. Sept. 27, 3:00-5:00 ate the Commons with a potluck following.
Lease with PHC- nearly done
Board to board meeting with PHC Oct 1- Following up on June meeting.
Need a grant writer ACTION: offer by Bill MaCollom to talk to Rollo about sharing one)
No Fall Fair this year d/t lack of coordinator for the event; AGI Co-op agrees that we should do one next Fall.
No Farm to Table Feast.
Community Kitchen electrical upgrade nearly finished
Still signs of fires in the woods; someone camping there today.

Property Stewardship Team — Kim

• Irrigation system: There are ongoing issues with the irrigation system, but gradually the problems are being dealt with, thanks to Bob's persistence. We switched to the reservoir on Saturday.
• Signs**:** Despite the circus folks redoing the circular signs, Commons signage remains pretty much unnoticeable. The two big signs that are buried in the hedge have greyed. Can we agree to paint the background so that the black lettering shows up? ACTION: 1. Comments and

suggestions to Kim: property@gabriolacommons.ca 2. Jinny to inform Cameron Murray and Judith Roux who were members of the original signage group (with Rebecca Furnell and Jinny). [Ed Note: done]

• Hedge work coming up. There are two different jobs: the section along North Rd will be removed, and the rest of the hedge is in urgent need of trimming. Both these jobs will need volunteers to help and to keep the costs down. We are mostly waiting for the fire hazard to change.

• Community Kitchen: The temperature in the community kitchen, even when no-one has been cooking, is too hot to make it a safe place to work. The heat comes mostly from the pilot lights on the new stoves. We are trying to figure out how to deal with this.

• Security remains an ongoing issue: Doors are left unlocked. Windows are left open. More motion lights are needed. The RCMP continue to recommend cameras. They do not have the time to patrol the Commons.

• Fire. Someone lit a fire in the woods about a week ago. There was a stack of firewood at the site so it looked like more fires were planned. The fire chief was notified. This was the 20th fire on the Commons since the beginning of the year.

Process Team — David

Team is actively working on an ongoing conflict between two members of the South Garden. We have met separately with both parties and it seems to remain intractable. The matter will be discussed at the next Trustee meeting. The key is to keep talking.

Communications --- Heather

• Proceeding with three articles for the Sounder in commemoration of the 20th. Anniversary of the Commons. One for publication before the Sept. 27 AGM. One before Shelagh Huston's talk at the Golf Course November 9, sponsored by the Museum. And one being published Sept. 3 about an event the library is hosting.

Another article about Betty Kehler's apple juicing team at the Commons is also in the works; important because of there being no Fall Fair.

• Posted a notice on the website and FB page regretting there will be no Fall Fair this year, due to lack of capacity and encouraging anyone interested in helping out for next year's to contact us at info@gabiolacommons.ca.

• Working with Process Team on turning the short version of the Commons Agreement into an attractive poster; have sounded out a graphic artist who can help with the design.

• Plans to revamp the "Get involved" section of the website, with a new introduction to teams that people can become part of.

• Heather fields the emails addressed to info@gabriolacommons.ca (includes those who use the "Contact us" link from the website). Typically, there is at least one a week, often two or three. Most of these involve re-routing queries. Many, though, offer an opportunity to explain the Commons a bit and provide supportive information. Sometimes, groups of people who

are interested in creating a commons in their own community/region reach out for information. Last month, there was a series of emails with a York University masters student (Madelaine Fournier) doing research for the National Farmers Foundation interested in the Commons as an alternative form of land holding for food production. We will receive a copy of the research report and will likely post it on our website.

Woods Task Force – Janice

• The task force is still patrolling regularly. It needs a better way of dealing with the garbage it collects. The yellow cans put out for cigarette butts go missing.

Farm Team ---Betty

• The Commons fig tree was prolific and generate $300 income for the Commons.

• The blueberries are over.

• Apple juicing has started with Diane's assistance. Juice is available. There is a glut of apples on Gabriola this year.

• The learners' garden is active.

Covenant Team - Jinny

The 12-year old team is currently inactive, but Jinny Hayes and George Szanto are holding the space open for future activity. The Local Island Trust Committee (LTC) is considering becoming the signatory (covenant holder) and had its lawyers go over the document. A number of edits, deletions and additions were suggested and George and Jinny recently compared the LTC version and that of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) approved version, finding the spirit of the Covenant has not been compromised. Because of the ALC's approval to attach a covenant to Title, last summer the Covenant Team had asked them for an extension to provide time to work with the LTC. Notice of a 3-year extension was received in July this year. More work is needed both on the Covenant itself and the associated Stewardship Plan and more human power is required to advance this work.

5. Affiliate Reports

No affiliate reports

6. Announcements

Bob reported that an engineer recently inspected the FarmHouse, finding no asbestos. He also found no lead, some silicon. This inspection will cost between $700 and $1200. Formal report pending.

7. Closing

Appreciations

Heather expressed appreciation for the work Bob Andrew does on the Commons, eg, governance, Council Stewards, waterline persistence, PST, etc.

8. Next CCC meeting: October2rd (first Tuesday) at 7 pm, Farmhouse

Facilitator(s): Bob Andrew

Recorder: Jinny Hayes

First Nations acknowledgement: TBA

Timer: TBA