Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

Written Reports to: council@gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of Meeting of October 7, 2025

Facilitator: Bob Andrew

Notes: Brent O'Malley

Timer: N/A

Present: David Lightly; Betty Kehler; Kristin Allan; Kim Kasasian; Maureen Wild

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Agenda accepted

2. Acknowledgement

3. Team Reports

Trustees: Kristin (written report)

- The Commons AGM took place on Saturday, September 27th. There were 24 people in attendance. The meeting went a full 2 hours and included some great Q&A discussions. It was followed by a delicious potluck meal. The AGM notes will be available soon for all to read.
- We have 3 new trustees: Rob Stephenson, Marlo Firme and Colleen Reid. We are now a team of 8 trustees on the Board.
- PHC Lease: The lease has been finalized and will be signed any day now.

The Yurt Keepers: Kristin (written report)

- The Yurt Keepers is still a team of 2 people. We'd love to see another couple of people join us to collaborate on visioning and executing ideas for the yurt.
- Donation plaque: A lovely wooden plaque is now inside the yurt stating that the yurt was donated to the Commons by Poetry Gabriola Society.
- Fundraising:

- In August, the yurt received a $750 donation from a fundraising event. In September, another fundraising event was held in the yurt, which raised an additional $500. Since then, 3 private donors have stepped forward in September- 2 of them donated $500 each and the 3rd person donated $700. We just received another $500 to the yurt this week. This all means that we have met and surpassed our wood stove fundraising goal of $2,700. We will be putting any additional funds toward materials to construct a new woodshed in the Spring and then to set aside for eventual maintenance and upgrading expenses. Thank you to every person who's donated to the yurt so far. Please come enjoy the cozy atmosphere when the wood stove is installed!

- Several additional fundraising events featuring local musicians are in the works for November and

December, when it's warm in the yurt!

• Wood Stove: Frank, of Jim Chimney, has offered to pick up the new stove in Nanaimo, install it and inspect it free of charge for the Commons. The installation date is Friday, November 7th.

• Rental of Yurt: We have numerous rental inquiries for the fall and winter months that would be weekly or twice a month for things such as yoga classes and education groups for children.

Property Stewardship Team: Kim

- Hedge trimming is coming soon and needs volunteers; Simon is to organize
- A chipper is needed – rent or borrow?
- The farmhouse deck is not in good condition and will need attention soonish
- A fire was found in the forest, still smoldering. This is fire #23 this year. The fire department was notified.
- A PHC initiative called "Men's Shed" was recently held where older men in the community are given a place to go, connect and work with others.
- The workshop on the Commons would be a perfect place to host these sorts of meet-ups.
- The tool library could also benefit.
- Not sure where this will go but there was general consensus to utilize Commons facilities

Community Kitchen Stewards: Brent

- The electrical is still not done! A message was left with Evan, the contractor a week ago but no response.
    - Update post meeting, Hydro is to approve the hookup next week and the rest of the interior electrical can then be completed
- Applefest this past weekend saw multiple users in the kitchen. One user commented: "This really feels like a community kitchen!"
- The roof corner that was damaged by the PHC van has been repaired but in the process, more work on the roof was discovered that needed to be done – a rough estimate of $10,000. PST will take this on.
- PST will also look at the roof of the goat barn and the workshop since the roofs were all done at the same time by the same person.
- The kitchen continues to be very warm and the only difference is that the new stoves have pilots that burn constantly. We could install extractor fans in the attic but we will continue to burn gas. It is recommended that we look at new stoves to replace the ones currently there.

North Garden: Maureen

- The shed roof was fixed 1.5 years ago but recently Tanner worked on the two walls that were really needing attention. Things look great now!
- The gutters have been rerouted to the downside of the shed so that water no longer pools against the wall.
- Compost bins have been installed. Dallas at Arbutus gave the Commons a great deal.

- The garden had a wonderful potluck with 14 people in attendance, great food, and it felt like an amazing community builder
- Tanner's mom Cori is now working with Maureen on garden oversight.
- Rent is now being collected from Nov 1 to Oct 31
- The squirrels are stealing all the hazelnuts! What can be done?

4. Closing

The meeting ended at 8:40

Next CCC meeting: November 4, 2025 at 7 pm – Facilitator and Notetaker TBA by Council Stewards