

Commons Council Meeting Notes

August 4, 2026

Written reports to: council@gabriolacommons.ca

Facilitator: David

Notes: Kristin

Land Acknowledgment: David

Timer: Bob A

Also present: Jinny, Bob M, Betty, Bob A, Brent, Ron, Drea, Mark, Kim, Mercedes, Shirley

Agenda – Approved as posted with the addition of Goat Barn and Fundraising Group

First Nations Moment: David noted the indigenous way of being as a network of relationships, rather than being a house, place or Government. It's people.

Team Reports

Fundraising Task Group (Drea oral report)

- Sunday, August 16th Fundraiser Meeting and BBQ, planning a drive to address current & future FarmHouse expenditures.
- Trustees are seeking a professional fundraiser w/ help of task group, also team members.
- Project name "Save the Farmhouse" using a per-project approach
- New booth @ Saturday AGI markets with info about the Commons

Comment: there are many competing non-profits fundraising right now.

Covenant Team (oral report Jinny)

- Deadline August 17th to submit updated Covenant, Stewardship Agreement and Plan and Baseline Report to Local Trust Committee of Islands Trust for their consideration of their possibly becoming the Covenant Holder. So lots of work right now that may require others' input. Team will be in touch if necessary.

Farm Team (oral report Betty)

- Seeking equipment for recycling water in apple press w/ help of Cadmar
- Blueberries have brought in \$600 so far
- Harvesting figs and apples
- Betty asked what Farm Team budget is. ACTION: Mercedes to ask Suzi to send. [Ed Note: this attached to these Notes as a PDF for team reps' posting only]

Trustees (Bob oral report)

- AGM Sunday, October 18th 2-4pm in the Farmhouse
- There are changes to the front entrance: an auto-lock has been installed and code will be available only to renters.
- No more garbage pickup on the Commons or at PHC; Commoners need to take garbage home to add to their domestic pickup

PST (oral report, Kim and Bob)

- Security lights are up; cameras will go up soon
- Need signs with water filter emergency contact on them at gardens and orchard; folks need to know what to do when the filters plug, eg the one in the pond.
- Ready to switch over to reservoir water, about a week earlier than usual.

Finance (oral report, Mercedes)

- \$37k so far for farmhouse consultations: structural engineer, architect, Good Karma Contracting, Arbutus Septic, RDN permit; has a spreadsheet
- Ensure names and teams names are on all invoices and orders that are for Commons (ie. Gallery Press, Arbutus HH, etc.)

Community Kitchen Stewards (Mark oral report)

- There is a new dish sanitizer
- Have increased rental fees a little, stratifies by user; based on gas and hydro costs
- Bagel business is on the back burner; too difficult to bring in volunteers, plus Sarah is also not quite ready
- Need to make rental fee updates on website
- Residential stove from PHC not sufficient for Community Kitchen, therefore needs to be sold & replaced
- will be posting sign costs of CK rentals + QR code to take possible renters to Commons website.

Communications (Drea oral report)

- Need to update website changing “Facilities” to “Bookings”. Also website photos need refreshment as they are out of date. Suggest adding a bold banner to the Homepage with “Host your next event or gathering on the Commons! Click here to Book your Space” (something like that)
- Have a table at Saturday market now

Yurt Keepers (Kristin oral report)

- Kinda taking the summer off; will meet again at end of August.
- Grant money was awarded to the YKT by Gabriola Rec. Society has been received. Woodshed is almost done.
- Firewood splitting and stacking workbees coming in October
- Rentals are picking up
- Sounder article 2 weeks ago.

Goat Barn (Ron oral report)

- As noted in the GB report last Council mtg, would like to change use to public gathering space ASAP; it needs rescuing.
- Waiting on Commons to proceed with renos, eg, permit to change occupancy, assessment, design, costing. Noted that the engineering report is already done.
- Q: How do they go about working with Finance Team? A: Bring a mandate to an upcoming Council meeting and become a formal team. ACTION: Jinny will send Ron the Team Mandate template. Then Treasurer can start a budget line for eth new team
- Would like to commence fundraising; have a \$50K donation to start. Current team wants to start

fresh, leaving the history aside.

Q: lots of funding raising competition. **A:** Different sources to access; this will be those interested in the performing arts

Council consensus to move forward with the Goat Barn project.

Fall Fair (Shirley oral report)

- FF will be Sunday, October 4th. Shannon K will help organize.
- Group effort – PHC/Commons/ Agi Co-op. Will be meeting this Thursday at 9 am
- Vendors, squash race, dog show, bake sale

Q: Are costs and anticipated costs known? Shirley does have the 2021 budget

Q: Betty would like juicing money to go only to the Commons and Agi Co-op

Q: Contact for advertising is Colleen R (Communique', etc.)

Q: Have Farmers been informed? **A:** Yes.

Q: How will community groups be integrated? **A:** With vendors

Events (Bob and Kim)

- Can we streamline event organization? Any MOUs are managed by Brent. We need to update Bookings folks about MOUs and large event bookings protocol. Case in point was the recent circus, when organizer became frustrated with Commons processes.
- A paid person to coordinate events would require a change in Commons philosophy. What is done now (Bookings, MoUs, volunteers) is currently working but requires good communication among all parties. Website does need some changes for clarifications (see above Communications Report),

Other Agenda Items

Bob Martin

- Suggests asking CCCU for a loan that would be paid off by fundraising, a “builders bond”.
- He will join the fundraising task group

Next meeting Tuesday, September 1st, 6:30pm **Yurt Keepers' turn to manage the meeting.**