

Commons Council Meeting April 3, 2012

(Notes by Doug McKnight)

Present: Raymond, Judith, Linda, Pat, Dale, Janet, Sharon, Susan, Hans, Patrick, Victor, Stef, Mary, Shirley, Kit, George, Shelagh, Maya, Mary, Bob

Commons Chart

How to picture the Commons, how structure works

Teams make decisions

Places for community groups

Concentric Circles of influence

Chart will be sent out with minutes

Reports

- **Communications**

Brochure will be ready for Raspberries Benefit Concert

Commons Diners could use more advertising

Poster for diners will be coming out soon

- **Volunteer**

Trade Fair

Table worked well

\$1,103 collected from day to go to the PMT

- **LOT**

doubled membership to 4

Visiting other teams

- **Bookings**

Send emails if you want to use facilities

Please do not just write on calendar

\$10 an hour for everyone

- **Trustees**

Signed agreement with Pierces and Allotment South

Paid coordinators for specific jobs - discussed

What is the L.R.P. ? will speak at next meeting

PHC the lease and MOU discussed

Decision making how they get made. A work in progress

Commercial use of Commons

Regulations around this

Farm products can be sold

Craft Fair how will that be dealt with?

There will be a review process yearly for the rent

- **PMT**

Take care of what is in and around the building

There is a log book in kitchen to let PMT know what is needed to get done

Worked on mandate - revised

Cleaned workshop totally

It can be rented to those with safety first aid

\$30 an hour

Need to investigate about insurance for workshop in trustees domain they will decide

No timetable for workshop completion, yet

Maybe contact Work Safe BC to take a look at what is needed for the workshop

- **Farm Management**

Spring planting

Fertilizer donated

Bug tent for juicing

Allotments set for next year at Commons South

Next meeting April 16

Spring Fair is coming. May 5

- **Sharing the Commons**

Regulations and restraints of zoning and their by laws

EEV costly and needs a public meeting

Commercial under takings need to be figured out

Can not use commons to make money for individuals

Can pay people to do. Things

Get special permit for some commercial kinds of events

Pat Maloney will help with this

- **Grants**

Van city for 28,000 for kitchen

- **Covenant**

Just about at the end

One more meeting might be all it takes

Is on the web site

Respond to George with ideas

- **PHC**

Shed is up

Food bank is being used a great deal

Rainbow program

April 11 to start

10 week. Grief workshop for kids

For kids and parents

Clean up construction site

- **Infrastructure**

Alternative energy planning

Looked at Sustainability Centre

Special Reports

- **ESS**

Community assistance

Emergency services. Support for families, get organized for 72 hours

Neighborhood emergency preparedness program

Shelter in place

Need to know neighborhood and help each other

Have a reception centre

Personal safety first

Neighborhood meeting place

Minimum of a week

Have an air horn

Ham radios only communication

Let someone outside of BC know where you are at

Presentation at Haven May 5, 10 to noon

- **Earth Day Sunday April 22**

Labyrinth walk Garden tours Bon fire Growls puppet show

Haiku in yurt Apple juicing Vegan group Bake sale

Drum circle

Need volunteers

Workbee to clean up

Spirit of land article - Jinny

Put up tents

- **Raspberries Benefit for Commons this Saturday**

Noon till 9 pm

Commons tee shirts to volunteers

Need brochures

- **Composting Toilet**

It is a go approved by STC, INFRA, FMT

Need good public education on topic

Make it a working model with full cycle

Send something to papers the sooner the better

Hope to have it running by summer

- **Archives**

Catalogued

Recorder every detail in long hand

Send copies to a few people to look at

Keep, store, preserve

Has two page instructions

Need box with hanging files

- **Communicating with media**

Communications team as conduit , some did not want editing

If about Commons needs to be vetted

Otherwise don't worry about it

Stuff needs to be written by group who is doing the event

Written questions with written answers

- **Dinners**

Themes and names and date and time on poster

Use Ken and others to send out

Submitted reports:

Team Name - Sharing the Commons

Report Submitted by - Kit Szanto

April 3, 2012

Activities:

We met on March 6 with Deborah Ferens to go over the regulations, definitions, constraints of the Official Community Plan as they affect the Commons, in the specific zone created for the Commons by the Islands Trust – the Gabriola Commons Comprehensive Development zone – with particular attention to how this might affect the Elder Eco

Village planning. Our discussion revealed a need for clarity on costs, scale of project and possible models (cooperative?). A meeting with relevant Commons teams is planned to gather more information, with the suggestion of another public meeting to determine needs and user potential.

It was very interesting looking at some specific details in the primary and secondary uses permitted and forbidden on the Commons, while recognizing the restriction on “commercial” uses, and raised some important issues for us all to be aware of and to consider.

We also met with Mary Wilson and Sharon Pattison, as LOT reps, to brain storm a bit about ideas and vision for learning at the Commons.

Issues and Concerns:

The discussion with Deborah Ferens made it clear we all at the Commons need to be much more aware of what activities are currently permitted at the Commons and which are not. Perhaps Long Range Planning might consider taking on the implications of some of these restrictions with the thought of perhaps asking that, in the future, the permitted activities be expanded in the Gabriola Commons Comprehensive Zone.

Next STC meeting: April 4, 2012 at 10 am

INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM Report: Meeting – 22 Mar 2012.

Farm Team – Composting Toilet.

To be discussed at the next council meeting (April):

The end use of ‘Humanure’ and where on the commons to be confirmed.

Documentation/plans to be issued to Island Trust planner for information and comment.

SCP

Copy of drawings received from SCP.

Drawings currently being reviewed for next INF meeting.

EEV

Ongoing. At present little input required from INF until project progressed to design phase.

INF items - Ongoing

INF application for discussion.

Energy workshop to be arranged

Alternative Technology, systems suitable for the commons.

Check if methane is combustible – process for methane collection from food waste/composting.

Commons Structure – site map/graphics.

Commons structure map update. Coordinate with Rebecca Furnell

New Path.

Proposed plan for the new pathway/cycle route. No INF involvement required.

Operation and Set-Up.

Cooperation of work/schemes at the commons, management structure for operation of projects: each project team will operate, manage, maintain and clean their facility. Report and update to council. (perhaps a special meeting to do this?)
All carried out in the spirit and ethos of The Commons.

Property management.:

Create asset register of fabric and equipment
Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manual to list all?
Safety of volunteers and workers, requirement of insurance?, request information.
Approach contractors regarding projects at The Commons – labour and materials.
Possibly advertise (Shingle/Sounder) for specific projects.

AOB

Funding:

Possible funding available for constructed wetland, by BCWF research?
Grant for sustainable works. (T.D. Bank) research?

Next Meeting: 19 April 2012

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Communications Report for March 2012

Highlights

- new brochure out this month
- please let Communications know if you are wanting to have something on a Commons table for events
- will be meeting with the PHC communications person
- updates will be biweekly

Issues and Concerns:

- does the council want information that is submitted to the media to continue to go through Communications?

Next Meeting Monday April 23rd at noon