

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC) gabriolacommonscouncil@gmail.com

Notes for Meeting of April 02, 2013

Present: Deb Ferens, Robbie Huston, Judith Roux-McKay, George Szanto, Patrick Roux, Muriel Wiens, Rebecca Furnell, Mary Aiken, Kit Szanto, Patsy Ludwick, Jinny Hayes, Imogen Whyte
Co-facilitators (2): Bob Andrew, Maya Ruggles
Recorder: Stef Marrie

Next CCC meeting: May 07, 2013
Recorder for next meeting: (team & rep.)

Actions/Questions to be taken/addressed:

(list team/person responsible)

- A. Menu changes for website: contact communications@gabriolacommons.ca (All Teams).
- B. FMT new mandate and food sharing policy: contact sharon.pattison@gmail.com (All Teams)
- C. Contact Shelagh H. re: conflict resolution (Robbie H.) - from previous Council meeting

Additional Agenda Items:

(outline discussion below)

- A. Scything and Haymaking Project (proposed by Robbie Huston)
- B. Heather Menzies – looking for feed-back about the Commons for her presentation to Island Studies Conference (May 10-12 @ Haven) heather_menzies@carleton.ca
- C. Mary Wilson – Commons group presentation to Island Studies Conference – field trip on the Commons requires lots of people --- if you can help, call, or email mary.gabriola@gmail.com
- D. Mary Rose – croquet on the Commons.
- E. George Szanto – Boules court on the Commons.

Ongoing Discussion Items:

(carry forward unaddressed items to next meeting)

- A. Current issue ongoing (starting March meeting): front yard
- B. "Personal benefit" on the Commons
- C. Sustainability Building (in progress)
- D. Signage
- E. Formation of a Conflict Resolution Team
- F. Recognizing Contributions
- G. How do we decide what gets sent out to membership?

20 MINUTES ON A CURRENT ISSUE: Front Yard - 2nd session

Summary from first 2 discussion sessions: While much of the focus of our session was the hedge, many comments pointed to a vision of the front yard as being a "threshold" space onto the rest of the Commons, stretching from Huxley Park to Rollo Centre, with the hedge being only one of several components. Other components (existing and potential) of this "threshold" are: the lawn, various plants and trees, pedestrian entrances, parking space, the frontage of the outbuildings. Criteria that arose as being important aspects of our "threshold" are: that it be welcoming for all people; that it be interesting and draw people in; that it be safe (both practically and as a refuge); that there be space for various activities and practical needs; that signage be clear and informative; that there be better lighting; that it be maintained and well cared for. Other suggestions included: having dedicated people to work on this project, get more information and present potential designs;

redesigning 'entrances'; viewing the hedge as a large canvas (to maybe design with curves and 'windows' and arched openings, reducing the height); researching the cultural history of hedges; recognizing the age of our hedge (how long it took to grow it); being careful of birds' nests; recognizing the potential for 'Zen Views'; and assessing whether there's a conflict between the privacy provided by the hedge and the ethics of the Commons.

Further information needed:

- hedge maintenance
- effect of cutting holes
- who is taking on walkway? collaboration
- what role do tenants on land take in process and design? Other stakeholders?
- expertise on landscape design in conjunction with all needs
- history / possibilities of hedges
- arborist
- resources available?
- contest / project for students

TEAM Reports:

Commons Coordinating Council (rep: Bob/ Maya)

- ⤴ Many thanks go to Bob Andrew for his six month position as Co-Facilitator. His extensive knowledge of Commons Governance and diplomatic leadership were most appreciated. The next Council meeting will be co-facilitated by Maya Ruggles and Stef Marrie.

Communications (rep: Imogen Whyte, Patsy Ludwick)

- ⤴ Imogen receives all articles for the Communique, formats them and sends out to the email database. There have been some requests from members to avoid dark fonts and a lot of colour, so the page is easy to print out. Council members were reminded to consider this when sending in submissions. Imogen thanked everyone who offered advice on creating a user and printer friendly format for the Communique.
- ⤴ Patsy will be taking over Communications duties for a few months while Heide is away. Please forward items for the Communique to her at communications@gabriolacommons.ca.
- ⤴ **A request for 150 word articles** was made, as the local newspapers will publish them in the event there is available space. Articles can be about events, projects or experiences at the Commons. Please forward these to Patsy.

- Next Meeting:

Covenant (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

Event Planning (rep: Stef Marrie)

- ⤴ **The Spring Fair** will have a bit of panache this year. Judith Heather has joined the ranks to head up entertainment for the Fair. This year will include Maypole festivities, Morris dancing by Drumbeggar Border Morris, Balkan Dance Group, and music by Beggars Drum, Gabriola's Village Band. Posters will be placed around town, and an article has been sent to Communications Team for the Communique. The Fair will be held **Sunday, May 5th – 11am to 3pm.**

- Next Meeting:

Farm Management (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

Finance (rep: Deb Ferens)

- ▲ March 31st was the **Commons Fiscal Year End**, so Deb has requested that all outstanding monies owing and receipts to be applied to last year be turned in. They can be dropped off in the Treasurer's box in the office. This is also the time for Teams to **request funds for items or projects** for next year, so they can be added to the proposed budget. Funds for items approved last year, but not spent, will be rolled over into the new budget for those projects, so no need to re-apply.

Fundraising (rep: Robbie Huston)

- ▲ A current focus of the Trustees is on **Finance and Fundraising**. The Trustees are working to create a long term strategy for fundraising that will cover all of the Commons financial obligations and goals.

- Next Meeting:

Grant Writing (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

Infrastructure (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

Learning Opportunities (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

Property Management (rep: Patrick Roux)

- ▲ A concern about the number of **vehicles parking on grassy areas** was raised, so the PMT will be placing logs in strategic access points. A request for a **chop-saw** was proposed, as this tool will be vital for building the kitchen siding, and will be invaluable for projects for many years. Debra and Jinny offered to help Patrick with the process to obtain the funds for the saw, and Debra advised that it be added to requests for funds in the upcoming budget.
- ▲ The **Kitchen plumbing** passed inspection and Peter Phinney gave a bill for \$1000 for the work. Patrick estimates that this bill should have been at least \$10K, meaning that Peter donated all of his time, as well as paying for a helper. Patrick suggested that he request a bill from Peter that will cover more of his costs, and it was agreed that this would be appropriate.
- ▲ The **Kitchen Septic failed inspection**, resulting in the requirement for an additional \$20K for a new septic system. This septic will be built large enough to include the main building, with connecting pipes that can be used if and when the main building's septic

needs to be replaced. It was unclear as to the source of funds that will cover the new septic.

- Next Meeting:

Share the Commons (rep: Kit Szanto)

- ▲ The Council agreed each team should decide their **priorities for spending the extra \$\$** remaining from the \$49,000 given by the anonymous donor. STC commends Patrick Roux for his skill and care in managing the more expensive renovations, esp. the Goat Barn roof, and the deck. Since the septic tank needs to be replaced, we may not have any extra funds to spend. But if it still is an option – STC priorities are: 1st priority – Improved signage, 2nd – Farm gate stand
- ▲ The idea of a **cob oven being built on the Commons** was suggested by the Arts Council as a workshop during the Isle of the Arts festival and the idea is one we felt was wonderful to contemplate, BUT not at this time. We have a lot of projects on the go now and this one would require more time than we currently have in order to build a roof for it to protect the cob.
- ▲ **Yetta's bench has been finished** and STC discussed where we should we keep it: perhaps, in the entry space, or in the big room? (It cannot survive outdoor weather.) It would be good to have a small celebration, with soup, to commemorate Yetta and the bench. Susan Yates will contact Linda St. Clair and Jinny Hayes to find out when would be suitable.

- Next Meeting:

Trails and Green Spaces (rep: Kit Szanto)

- ▲ TAGS is continuing the work of taking out **daphne and broom** on the Saturday work bees (when they are not helping with other work bee tasks). **One of the TAGS projects is the East/West connector**, the path from the tennis courts to the Rollo Centre. In the allotting of funds from the anonymous donor's \$49,000, \$1000 was put aside to develop the east/west trail, and GaLTT donated another \$1000 for this trail. It seems important that we start on constructing this trail. (It is not good publicity for the Commons to have been given this money for this project and not to use it.) Unfortunately most TAGS members are not able to build this, even part of it, without help from those more skilled in such projects than we are. Is it possible for Property Management to manage this for us, with our assistance where we can be useful? Simply sitting on these two donations would make donating to the Commons seem a waste of generosity. **In response to this concern**, Council members asked for a bit more time to focus time and resources on completion of the kitchen project.

- Next Meeting:

Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation (rep:Rebecca Furnell)

- ▲ A request was made for Volunteers for the Communications Table at the Spring Fair, May 5th – 11am to 3pm. Even just a few hours at the beginning of the event would suffice. Volunteers would help to sign up new members and provide information about the Commons to Spring Fair visitors. Please contact Rebecca furnellr@gmail.com. **The Decision Making Document** created by Rebecca has been vetted by the Trustees, and is ready for another review by Council members. Please forward comments to Rebecca.

- Next Meeting:

Volunteers (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

PROJECTS:

Community Kitchen (rep: Judith Roux)

- △ Progress on the kitchen is steady, and there is increasing interest among Gabriolans.

Gabriola Bus (rep: Judith Roux)

- △ **The Gabriola Bus** is quickly coming to fruition with the purchase of a second bus, designation of routes and increased community anticipation. Judith posed the question as to whether the busses could be parked after hours at the Commons. Some research would be needed to determine whether there would be an issue with insurance, but the general consensus was that it would be advantageous for the Commons to be associated with the Community Bus. The proposal will proceed to Sharing the Commons Team. There is also a need to find a home for the kitchen oil collected from local pubs and restaurants. Vandalism was a main concern, but it was pointed out that the Commons is not zoned for the production of fuel.

Green Bikes (rep:

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Island Connections (rep:

- △

Labyrinth (rep: Mary Aitken)

- △ Mary recognized Robbie Huston and Mary Wilson for the care they are providing to trim the Labyrinth by hand. She mentioned that both benches were knocked over, and asked if it would be possible to anchor them in some manner. A memorial to the late Krystal Anderson will be held at the Labyrinth on Saturday, April 13 @3pm. Gabriolans will be invited to bring a potted plant or seeds as part of the ceremony in Krystal's Garden Plot. Krystal was a Commons Plot holder and could be seen regularly there with her children.

Sustainability Centre (rep:

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GROUPS

People for a Healthy Community (rep:

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- Next Board Meeting:

Poetry Gabriola (rep:

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- Next Meeting:

Story-telling (rep: Muriel Wiens)

- The group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, and Muriel is still working on building attendance. Circumstances lead to a lack of participation in March, which gave Muriel time to connect with her inner Steel Magnolia and strategize on ways to increase membership.

- Next Meeting:

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

A. **Scything** last year was limited to trimming, and Robbie proposed a **Haymaking** project that would highlight the joys of scything. The area between the Yurt and Sustainability Building would be roped off to allow the grass to grow, with signage that would describe the Haymaking event. The project would culminate on a day in June when the community would be invited to help scythe, dry and bail the hay, followed by a celebration. Mary Wilson will contact Poetry Gabriola, who often uses this area as parking, to explain the project and offer parking solutions. There was unanimous support and enthusiasm for the Haymaking project.

B.

C.