

Gabriola Commons Council Meeting – December 1, 2015

Present: Rebecca Furnell, Bob Andrew, Jinny Hayes, Deb Ferens, Louise Amuir, Sharon Arnell, Patrick Roux, Charles Silva, John Peirce, Kit Szanto, George Szanto,

Facilitators: Muriel Wiens, Judith Roux

Secretary: Linda St.Clair (for the Communications Team)

Agenda emerged as follows:

Gertie Discussion: Team representatives were asked to report the results of their response to Gertie's request to use space on the Commons for the next three years. The initial request was for a year but they are currently asking for three years. This would include parking, office and fuel space.

The results of the discussion indicated strong support of Gertie and its importance to Gabriola Islanders for transportation for it performs an important service. It was felt, however, that there were a number of questions that needed to be explored further before a recommendation can be made to house the buses for a three year period. The Tag's team, Sharing the Commons, Farm and Long Range Planning Team supported the three year request, while the Trustees and the Communications Team supported a one year commitment to be reviewed annually and the CPR Team was mixed in length of contract.

Critical questions arose that Deb Ferens agreed to communicate to Jim.... for a fuller discussion at the Commons Council meeting on January 5, 2016. Among the concerns raised were: clarification of the "rental" fee of \$1,000 per year; the liability/insurance coverage; placement of the buses around the newly developed Community Kitchen, are there "buried costs" to the Commons and where the buses can be located on the Commons (Infrastructure Team?). Teams are urged to come prepared to discuss and hopefully decide at our January meeting where we are with the Gertie proposal to continue to utilize the Commons for space.

Team Reports:

Long Range Planning: Deb circulated copies of the up dated LRP Planning Chart. She emphasized that the LRP Team does not remove anything but rather reclassifies approved projects when they are done and synthesizes those that overlap. She noted that some key projects have been accomplished such as the septic system, sustainable centre roof, and farm house roof. Many others are "almost there" such as equipment shed (with roofing and solar panels) and kitchen. The top five now are the circulation plan, completion of sustainable centre, phase one of barn, assessing and maintaining buildings and finishing the equipment storage shed.

Signage is important and a concern about high cost was raised. Grant writing might be needed in order to have the quality and durability needed.

Next year LRP will hold a review of the plan, as is done every five years. They will send out details.

Next meeting: January 13 at 2pm at the Commons

Sharing the Commons: Kit reported that Patrick Olmsted is willing to initiate a stewarding team to manage scheduling and use of the wood working shop and to conduct training sessions for safety in using equipment. Other equipment may also be made available on loan from the former Silva Bay Shipyard School.

Next Meeting: December 16 at 10 am at the Commons

Tags: Continues to have “on the ground” meetings on Saturday while they are working on the Commons. Some discussions about getting a new “extractigator” were discussed.
Next Meeting: Join them as they work each Saturday on the Commons grounds.

Property Management: Charles will be co-ordinating this team and John Pierce will send out notes as they move forward on the projects before them. Membership is OPEN and all are encouraged to attend the next meeting!
Next meeting: December 11 at 4pm on the Commons

Farm Team: Sharon reported that the Farm team brought in around \$900 for FMT projects from the Craft fair and Cook Book Sales. They will be replacing tools, repairing fencing and making signs for the orchard. They are advocating that if the cost of the Equipment shed “runs over “ the allocated \$1,000, that this over-run could be shared by other users (TAGS and PMT).
Next Meeting: December 28 9 am Commons

Trustees: Louise shared that the “old” and “new” trustees met and it was an opportunity to hear the experiences of those leaving this team. Certain positions are needed to be filled and those remaining in positions reaffirmed: Co-Chair: Alison volunteered to continue and we will need one more; Louise Amuir will stay on as Secretary. Other positions will be filled at the next Trustees meeting. Some discussion about streamlining donor list, new signatures needed and possible “fund raising” letter to Communicue.
Next Meeting: December 10 at 2 pm.

Communications: Jinny reported that a “policy of donating” goods and/decorations needs to be developed; need new volunteer to manage the web site; and it is important that Stef gets the current meeting dates and time of all the teams. It was suggested that this be added to he Commons Council co-facilitators role and forwarded on immediately to Stef.
Next meeting: at the call of conveyor Jinny Hayes

Infrastructure: No report
Next meeting: December 7 at 4 pm

Topic for Discussion: Cleaning and keeping the Commons meeting spaces clean:
It is important that all groups that use the Commons, including Common’s teams, are reminded that they are responsible for picking up after themselves and sweeping the floors after use etc. Teams are requested to discuss how they wish to participate in keeping up the cleanliness of the commons. Deb suggested some options of asking for a team of volunteers; each team taking it on for a month. Jinny had talked with Gloria and while it is on the renter’s form it is hard to follow up to be sure it is done. This topic needs to be reviewed again in January.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMONS COUNCIL WILL BE JANUARY 5 AT 7 PM AT THE COMMONS.