

# Gabriola Commons Coordinating Council

Notes from January 8, 2013

**Present:** Maya Ruggles (Facilitator); Bob Andrew (co-Facilitator); Kit Szanto , Raymond Tremblay, Patrick Roux, Muriel Wiens, Judith Roux (Recorder); Deborah Ferens, Stef Marrie

**Next CCC meeting:** Tuesday, February 5 at 7 pm

**Recorder for next meeting:** TAGS

## **Actions/Questions to be addressed:**

- A. Create proposal for setting time to discuss ongoing items (Bob/Maya)
- B. Tree Task Force will bring report to next council (Tree Task Force)
- C. Allocation of funds from events (Events Team will discuss)
- D. Recognizing contributions (All Team will discuss)
- E. Policy to come from FMT re produce grown in Kitchen garden (FMT)
- F. Share with Poetry Gabriola the list of contact names for various questions (Trustees)

## **Ongoing Discussion Items to watch for:**

- A. “Personal benefit” on the Commons (initially called “paid services on the Commons”) (See FMT discussion and discussion on permitted uses of Community Kitchen.)

It is important that the Commons not compete with commercial ventures in the Village and that the spirit of capitalism not come into the Kitchen.

- B. Sustainability Building (in progress)
- C. Signage
- D. Cleaning Front Yard

## **TEAM Reports:**

**Commons Coordinating Council :** Maya will continue another 6 months as facilitator (with Bob continuing co-facilitation for another 3 months.). Suggestion: Let discussion items be known in advance on the Commons website.

## **Communications** (Rep: Raymond for Heide)

- Any items should be sent to Heide (including items intended for the newspapers and items intended for the Commons Communiqués (through Imogen).
- Heide will be working on website with Hans this month.
- Need to replace Heide during her absence during April and May (i.e. more Communication Team members needed). Contact Heide for more info.

***Event Planning*** (Rep: Rebecca Furnell)

- Meeting scheduled for Jan. 15 at 10 am to launch planning of annual events and develop a basic template including contact info.
- Last event: “Christmas Live”. Large enthusiastic audience in attendance despite rain!  
Next event: Trades and Services Fair. Feb. 23

***Farm Management Team:*** (Rep. Judith in Susan Yeend’s absence.)

- What becomes of the food grown in the gardens (besides use in soups at workbees and seasonal farm gate sales? General discussion supported the principle of those committed to the long haul of growing food crops being able to take some of the food grown home, with a request for more discussion on “personal benefit”.

**Recommendation: that the FMT create a policy on this issue.**

***Fundraising*** (Rep. George Szanto). Upcoming meeting to launch new fundraising campaign focussing on paying down the mortgage: Jan. 17 at 2 pm

***Grant Writing*** (Rep. George Szanto) no report this month.

***Infrastructure*** (Rep: Aidan Simmons) no report this month  
Next meeting Jan. 17 at 1 pm

***Learning Opportunities*** (Rep: Mary Wilson) no report this month

***Property Management*** (Rep: Patrick Roux)

- Prep of space in Goat Barn for Gabriola Theatre Players storage (as they vacate the future Community Kitchen)
- Discussion on extending parking area
- Signage begun at West property line (near tennis courts) with post supports

Next meeting: January 14 at 1 pm

***Share the Commons*** (rep: Kit Szanto) No report this time  
Next meeting: January 9

***Trails and Green Spaces:*** (rep: Kit)

- Discovery of new broom and daphne emphasizes need to keep on top of these invasive species! New extractigator and loppers purchased.
- Tree Task Force: Meeting planned for Jan. 19 (10 am) to look at trees which may need to be removed. All teams concerned are urged to attend.

Note: Meetings happen during weekly Saturday walkabouts (10 to noon). Newcomers always welcome.

### ***Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation***

- We sadly recognize the seriousness of Yetta's illness. During the next six months Deb Ferens will take on the position of acting treasurer (while conducting a discrete search for a permanent treasurer) and Robbie Huston will be financial assistant.
- Deb gave a brief report on the projects being financed by the \$50,000 anon. donation:  
**Completed projects:** Deck (on budget); Goat Barn Roof (less than budget!); First Aid Kit; boardwalk extension; entry pathway with light  
**Projects in progress:** Community Kitchen, Site Map, Sustainability Centre; repair to cob wall
- The Covenant Team and Long Range Planning group will be working together this coming month
- The question of keeping the office door unlocked was raised. All agreed that this would permit those without a key to access needed facilities. Anything to be protected (e.g. donors' list) is locked in the inner closet. Decision: Keep office door unlocked!
- An all-day retreat is scheduled for January 11

Next meeting: Thursday Jan. 17 at 2 pm.

### ***Volunteers:*** (Rep: Stef Marrie)

- Discussion about new Events Team

### **PROJECTS:**

#### ***Community Kitchen*** (rep. Viviane Johnson)

- Workbees continue, focussing on scraping and painting the Camp Miriam ranges.
- The Mandate of the Community Kitchen Stewards was presented:  
"As a collaborative team the Kitchen Stewards will manage community use of the Commons Community Kitchen, developing policies and procedures to ensure safe, clean and equitable use of the facility."  
Discussion on "equitable": It is intended that use of the kitchen be available to different organizations and individuals without privileging any one and that care be taken to ensure that time be made available for all to use.
- Clarity was received from Islands Trust planner Chloe Fox on the uses of the Community Kitchen. All of the uses anticipated for the kitchen have been approved. (Contact Judith for further info.)

- It was suggested that this group will become a team with the formulation of objectives and a strategic plan.

Next meeting: Thursday Jan. 17 at 5:30

***Stories from the memory Well:*** (rep. Muriel Wiens)

- Last stories focused on grief and joy at Christmas.

Next storytelling: Thursday January 24 at 1:30 (upstairs in the Commons).