

Gabriola Commons Co-ordinating Council

Minutes of council June 3rd

Attending: Raymond Tremblay, Nancy Hetherington-Peirce, John Peirce, Bob McKechnie, Robbie Huston, Judith Roux, Muriel Wiens, Rebecca Furnell, Brenda Fowler, Steph Marrie, Gloria Filax, Charles Silva, Patrick Roux

Facilitating: Raymond, Gloria

Minutes: LRP Team, Robbie

Review agenda:

Deb Ferens sent her regrets, so financial reporting postponed

Team Reports:

Events Team:

There will be a community garage sale, Saturday July 12, 10 until 2

Help is needed with set up and take down. Food is needed. Rebecca and Alex have volunteered to operate a concession stand.

The first Fall Fair meeting has happened and the event is planned for September 14th.

Conflict Prevention and Resolution ~ CPR:

The team continues to meet. After the first conflict resolution meeting, it was decided that they needed more knowledge/experience.

Community Kitchen:

The Community kitchen is getting closer. A grant has been applied for for the new septic. Haven't heard back yet. Hopefully, the kitchen will be ready for the Fall Fair. Several big work bees will happen. Cannot be used officially without the septic upgrade, but could be used unofficially for the Fall Fair. Hot water solar installation has been purchased.

Gabe Energy Solar Installation:

Bullfrog Power will provide half of the funds needed for the solar photovoltaic system if we can raise the other half first. We've applied for the community works fund and it seems hopeful.

Trustees:

As a result of consultation with the community, we realize that the mortgage elimination campaign needs to focus more on what we do and why people should care about the Commons, rather than on just the mortgage.

Goat Barn Working Group:

Steve Berthelot has resigned from the group and has written a letter explaining his reasons, primarily his doubts that the project can be achieved at the Commons. The team still feels that the project will proceed and we would be happy to have Steve's participation back again if he changes his mind.

Hay making/solstice

A hay-making event is planned by Robbie and Mary for the week of June 16th, weather permitting, followed by a summer solstice party at the Commons on June 21st.

Discussion topics:

Smart meters:

We now know that the cost of keeping analog meters will be \$65 a month. There is an appeal process for the idea of having the charge and for the whole idea of smart meters in general. We were advised that, whatever we decide, the situation will be different within six months as a results of these appeals.

There was a callout to the community for feedback. We are not sure what happened to the responses.

Muriel read out many points from the class action lawsuit. She feels smart meters are a health hazard.

Could we have an event to raise the \$800 or so for a year of analog meters? It was felt that this was not a good choice as this is a divisive issue and might not make for a happy fundraiser.

The Trustees can decide financial issues, but Council should advise on this issue.

It was pointed out that to change to smart meters now would require us to make a choice to do so and call Hydro to come and install the meters. Since we use consensus decision making and the community is currently divided on this issue, we cannot do anything but maintain the status quo, which is analog meters and an extra monthly charge. The trustees will draft a letter to the community stating that we will keep the analog meters for six months due to divided opinions in the community. This will cost us \$65 a month. We are currently experiencing a budget shortfall. Therefore, we will communicate to council the consequences of this additional cost. This notice will go out in the communiqué.

The Hedge:

Why not trim the trees near the road, opening up the sight lines and making the hedge less of an issue.

Parking behavior is an issue, but not the topic for the moment.

Raymond summarized the results of the survey as don't touch it.

PMT has been asked to bring a specific proposal regarding trimming the hedge or trimming trees.

Next meeting postponed to July the 8th. Robbie will tell Don Buskirk.