

Common Council Notes – May 1, 2018

Present: Laura-Jean Kelly, Cameron Murray, Bob Andrew. Brenda Fowler, Jinny Hayes, Judith Roux, Maya Ruggles, Maggie Mooney
Facilitators: David Lightly & Deb Ferens
Minutes: K. Louise Vincent

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Intros
2. Acknowledgements - Traditional Territory
3. Review Agenda
4. Appreciations
5. 20 minute discussion – Guests Cameron Murray and Laura Kelly
6. Cob wall/ AGES Donations Memos
7. Team Reports
8. Business Arising
 - Goat Barn Update
 - Other
9. Wrap Up & Debrief

Appreciation cared from Marie and Lisa from the Gabriola Rod and Gun Conservation Club regarding the Easter Egg Hunt at the Commons. Thanked the Commons for the wonderful grounds and ongoing support .

Jjnnny appreciated the trustee team for their work on the MOU's this year and many other document development etc.

Laura Jean Kelly and Cameron Murray's presentation and discussion:

Following two charettes, eight beautiful drawings and one map they reviewed the design ideas for the hedge so far. Drawings will be up for a week or so for the general public to view and comment.

Key ideas:

1. Flowing walkways between private domains to public lands
2. Different forms and shapes to the hedge
3. Relationship of space between the buildings – meaning, circulation, interesting ways to circulate through.
4. Pedestrian movement and patterns of circulation
5. Positive thing that hedge screens parking and traffic

6. A welcome (and perhaps a map) to the Commons where the well is – could serve to protect well as define space away from vehicles
7. Widening some areas and increasing visibility – “cone of view”
8. Opening corner – aligning with school crosswalk – invitation to walk through green space rather than parking lot
9. Opening to Rollo Centre
10. Five openings in the hedge
11. Black and white plots

Comments:

- unanimous love it – brings a lot of thinking together
- succeeds in flow, openness and containment
- access – mobility for differently abled
- green space for sure
- appreciate the process
- tool shed location? regarding moving the path
- better position to PHC aspect of the Commons farmhouse
- hedge height – 8’ – lower to make it manageable
- Cob wall location – relationship to welcome centre – connecting both
- welcome space relationship to parking turnaround
- community path? – RDN says will be on school side
- fir trees – problematic in corner- remove corner end of parking?
- thank you for the beautiful integration of all the input and consideration of what the Commons is- layering it all in a professional manner

Next Steps:

1. leave drawings up for a few weeks for more input
2. digital pdf files circulated through teams for discussion

3. another charette for clarifying input toward decisions
4. financial costing & proposal – seed money of \$500.00
5. stewardship planning
6. starting on corner work
7. observation of hedge over summer for birds and wildlife - bird count
8. planning for enormous quantity of material cut out of the hedge

REPORTS:

TRUSTEES –

1. Wonderful discussions with Shelagh Huston regarding AGES cob wall proposal and AGES Donation. Both letters of agreement were presented with a positive consensus to accept. Deep acknowledgements to and gratitude for AGES for their generous support. Letters are attached to this report.

Comments :

- Who will hold the donation? It is the legal and fiducial responsibility of the Commons Foundation as represented by the trustees.
- A commemoration plaque be established on the land in acknowledgment of AGES as founders and visionaries of the Commons.
- Jinny– discussion regarding the goat of the cob wall – transfer the story of the goat to the Goat barn?

Actions:

- AGES Donation Letter will be circulated to teams for discussion to be reviewed again at the June Meeting
- Full support expressed with gratitude. **Action:** K. Louise will get back to AGES. (done at the date of these notes).

2. MOU to Lions is complete – waiting to hear back for signing. Review with Gertie is due.

Action: K. Louise & Allie are following up on this.

Finance Team

1. Ages mortgage has been formally relinquished – paperwork completed

2. Economic resilience plan being worked on
3. Pottery workshop - what's happening – need mandate and budget - Judith says it is developing with Shawna and Christine as contacts

Action: Sharing the commons team will follow-up

4. Another person is needed to book keeping assistance on financial team. Interesting work and can be fun. Maya and Deb will mentor.

Action: Will advertise in community (Communication Team to follow up).

PEOPLE FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

1. BC Rural Health Award to Gabriola Island for all the health and wellness work done over the last 10 years. Thank you to the Commons for a safe, protective space for community.
2. Gabriola Health Care Foundation – small financial amount to celebrate.
3. Community Compost Day July 7th – events, raffles, children events.
4. Spring Extravaganza award for PHC at the Surf. 168 items donated by 80 businesses and individuals.
5. Met with STC team to initiate another discussion for a permanent sorting area.
6. 16 students hired this summer on the island – 3 to PHC to do zero waste and gardens.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM

1. Goat Barn renos begun with removal of the central dias. Need more volunteers – Saturday am. Arts Council will help with this.
2. 200 amp panel for Cultivate Theatre and Music Festival.
3. Outdoor rental policy needed – who is working on this?
4. PMT are reviewing their mandate and budget.
5. Snow guard on roof extending it over the entrance pathway (PHC will fund).

SHARING THE COMMONS TEAM

1. Zero waste storing area
2. Events team – volunteers needed for early Saturday 8 am for the Spring Fair to set up and take down tents, take turns at the Commons table – hosting a Labyrinth walk, Boules game, bike parade...

FARM TEAM

1. Light on work and participation – will report more next month

COVENANT TEAM

1. Working on the completion of covenant draft, stewardship plan agreement, stewardship plan template and finalizing the baseline report – bringing these documents together in June.

KITCHEN

- see attachment – (thank you Maya for sending!)

COMMUNICATON TEAM

1. Did discuss AGES proposal.
2. Good response from advertising in Sounder – someone would like to reactivate the library – developing a log out list and acquisitions .
3. Progress on Logo – Tim Gambrill’s design.
4. Young person for volunteering as web builder – infinite space for launching website
5. Some mandates from teams still required.
6. Taking notes at Council Meetings – is falling to fewer people – new list from Jinny – raises question of representation and sharing note taking tasks – a ‘systems’ way of keeping notes.
Action: put on future discussion

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 5TH, 7PM.

ATTACHMENTS:

MEMO

date: April 16, 2018
from: Amazing Grace Ecological Society (AGES)
to: Gabriola Commons Teams

Hello friends,

Like all living things, AGES has come to the end of its life-span. As part of celebrating this event, AGES would like to offer a gift to the Commons, which we hope you will wish to accept.

AGES will donate, as an in-kind donation, the refurbishment of the cob wall which stands on the Gabriola Commons property, restored to prime condition, and surfaced to stand up sustainably to future weather and aging. AGES will cover, directly, all the costs of having the original lead builders, Lisa Butler and Pollen Heath, supervise and direct a workshop of cob-building volunteers to complete the work, including both labour and materials, with the completed results constituting the donation from AGES. Lisa and Pollen are willing to do this, subject to their own time constraints.

No funds and no payments will be needed from the Gabriola Commons. This is an in-kind donation, similar to, for example, the memorial benches at the Labyrinth which have been donated to the Commons in the past.

We are addressing this letter to any and all Teams which have an interest in the cob wall. It is our expectation that this matter will come up at the next Commons Council meeting, and it is our hope that the Teams will have had sufficient time before that to consider our offer, and that a decision can be made reasonably quickly.

Since we are not certain which current Teams may have an interest in this matter, we have asked the Trustees to circulate this memo to the appropriate responsible persons, to give the Teams time for consideration before the Council meeting.

In solidarity and love,

Shelagh, for AGES

Letter of Donor Intent From Amazing Grace Ecological Society To the The Gabriola Commons Foundation In Memory of Jay Mussell

Because a long-standing relationship of warm regard, and a history of mutual benefit, exists between the Amazing Grace Ecological Society (AGES) and the Gabriola Commons Foundation (the Gabriola Commons), and because AGES is being dissolved, AGES will donate to the Gabriola Commons all of its financial assets remaining after the final costs of AGES dissolution are covered. This donation is being made in memory of Jay Mussell.

This amount will be a minimum of \$60,000, to be increased by the amount of any assets remaining in the AGES lawyer's Trust Fund after all required disbursements have been made.

The donated funds will be assigned to three funds, an **Endowment Fund**, a **Maintenance Fund**, and a **Commons Vision Fund**, as described below.

A. **Endowment Fund**

One-third of the donation, approximately \$20,000, will be used to set up an **Endowment Fund**, whose principal will be maintained in perpetuity, and whose interest income will be used for the purposes of the Gabriola Commons Foundation, as determined from time to time by the Foundation in accordance with its goals and principles.

Intent

The costs of setting up the Endowment Fund will be paid from the one-third portion of the AGES donation, with the balance to form the initial Principal of the Fund. The intention of the donors is that future donations will be solicited to the Fund, from donors to the Gabriola Commons, to support the long-term purposes of the Commons.

Guiding Principles

The Gabriola Commons will set up an Endowment Fund.

The principal of the fund is to be invested in accordance with a written set of Ethical Directives, to be developed by the Gabriola Commons.

B. **Maintenance Fund**

Intent

One-half of the donation, approximately \$30,000, will be placed into a **Maintenance Fund**, which is to be used to maintain the physical fabric of the Gabriola Commons property. This can include maintaining and repairing buildings, infrastructure, landscaping, and/or ecological or agricultural assets.

It is the donor's intent that this money be dispersed over a number of years.

AGES suggests that appropriate initial uses of a portion of the funds would be to carry out the Commons plans to alter the hedge, and to beautify and upgrade the immediate grounds around the house/hedge/parking area, and to carry out the Commons plans to upgrade the interior shared areas of the farm-house.

Guiding Principle

The donation for the Maintenance Fund is given with the aim of working towards beautification, lower maintenance, and reduced need for ongoing labour.

C. **Commons Vision Fund**

Intent

One-sixth of the donation, approximately \$10,000, will be placed into a **Commons Vision Fund**, which is to be used to uphold the intangible guiding principles of the Gabriola Commons. As per the Gabriola Commons Foundation Bylaws, Part 1, 3 - June 2009, revised September 22, 2012, these **Guiding Principles for the Gabriola Commons** are as follows:

- *Public Trust*: The Gabriola Commons exists in perpetuity for the benefit of the land and the people of Gabriola including future generations not favouring one generation over another.
- *Ecological Sustainability*: The assets and the land of the Gabriola Commons are used and valued only in ways that respect its ecology.
- *Social Sustainability*: The Gabriola Commons sustains and nourishes the fabric of the community for generations yet to come.
- *Local Democracy*: The Gabriola Commons stewardship is democratic, equitable and local.
- *Community Engagement*: The Gabriola Commons is a community legacy, involving the community in the broadest and deepest sense.

Guiding Principles

A) With the understanding that the registered Covenant on the Land and the Covenant's provision for a Stewardship Plan will enshrine the principle of Shared Governance over the direction setting and stewardship responsibilities for a sustainable, resilient Gabriola Commons, the Commons Vision Fund will be used to build and bring visibility to the Commons movement by creating opportunities and high level events on aspects of the Commons philosophy, vision, goals and challenges. These opportunities and events will address the question: What is the seminal and transforming role of the Commons, locally and globally, in creating new possibilities and capacities for a brighter future beyond the market and the state?

KITCHEN REPORT TO COMMONS COUNCIL - APRIL 1, 2018

1. Ongoing issues with cooler
 - a. I have been in contact with the cooler manufacturer, MKE in Quebec and learned how to program the new controller unit.
 - b. Unfortunately it doesn't start up the compressor so Simon at MKE contacted Robert Crozier at Knotty Pines, the refrigeration company on island who have worked on the unit in the fall and requested Bob come and complete the repairs.
 - c. I have spoken to Bob's receptionist at least half a dozen times in the last three weeks, leaving messages and requesting service calls but nothing happens. Spring on the coast is a bad time to get refrigeration work done as the boats are all hiring all the techs to get their units ready for summer. Apparently Bob is off island more days than he is on. The unit is still under warranty so I'm guessing it has low priority.
 - d. I will contact him again this morning and I will also call Simon and request another repair company.
 - e. Working with PMT to move compressor before Summer.
2. Big events coming (i.e., Music Festival and F2T); requesting some cross-team coordination (so we can be on the same page), particularly Kitchen, PMT, and Sharing the Commons

3. Recruitment efforts: Dawn starting at next meeting (May 7th); planning for a larger orientation early June; one person -who saw the ad in Sounder - has said they'll join us then.
4. (post meeting edit): Kitchen stewards decided to reverse their decision to support the Munu Canoe event with free kitchen space. It was brought to their attention that there might be a conflict of interest there. We don't currently have a set of criteria for deciding about requests for discounts or donations, and our budget is still really tight.