

October 18, 2016 minutes

Gabriola Commons Foundation

annual general meeting

Present / Sharon Pattison, Sharon Arnell, Maureen Wild, Judith Roux, Patrick Roux, David Chorneyko, Kit Szanto, Allie Charron, Judith Plant, George Ryan, Charles Silva, Jinny Hayes, Bob Andrew, Fay Weller, Maya Ruggles, George Szanto, Linda St Clair, Maggie Mooney, K Louise Vincent, Cameron Murray
Regrets / Alison Fitzgerald, Louise Amuir, Deb Ferens

Agenda

Welcome

Minutes

Finance

Gratitude

Acclamation

Planning

Welcome

Fay welcomed everyone to the Gabriola Commons Annual General Meeting.

A circle of introductions followed.

Fay presented an overview of the year on the Commons and activities central to the community. Elements included: the Fall Fair, the Wednesday Farmers Market which encourages local farmers, Community Gardens at North and South Commons, as well as at Namaste Gardens, the Christmas Craft Fair, the Biomapping project to create an ecological inventory of the Commons, a Covenant workshop with work in progress to protect the land in perpetuity, and a Field Guide to Governance at the Commons.

We have just celebrated the opening of the new Community Kitchen, created by many volunteers. New Commons signs are appearing and the solar panel installation is just beginning to provide energy.

C O M M O N S

Trustees focus upon the legal and financial aspects of the Commons. Legal agreements have been renewed with People for a Healthy Community (PHC), Gabriola's Environmentally Responsible Trans-Island Express (Gertie) and an agreement with Poetry Gabriola is also in progress. Community groups, such as Save Our Shores (SOS) have also been enabled to meet here on the Commons. On finance we have managed to reduce the Commons mortgage to 54,000 from the original amount of 409,000 at the origin of the Commons.

Minutes

Gabriola Commons Foundation AGM minutes for 2014 and 2015 were circulated prior to the meeting and posted on the Commons website for review. Approved



Finance

Maya thanked Deb for her mentoring and Maggie for her assistance during the past year as treasurer. Maya presented the financial report, touching upon several highlights.

The Commons mortgage is at 52,400, as of September 2016. And with our current approach, we can complete the mortgage payment within two years.

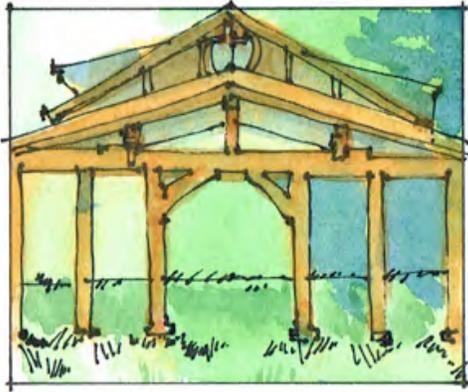
Commons donations are received by: monthly donors by Coastal Credit Union, direct donations to the Commons, or by Canada Helps. And last year the Village Food card programme provided 7,000 to the Commons.

Accounting and legal fees have gone up; while insurance is about the same amount. The Community Kitchen has been the main project this year, with grants received for installation expenses and skilled volunteers providing much of the work.

Jinny observed that the Commons agm follows six months after completion of the fiscal year and perhaps the agm can be rescheduled to more closely follow the fiscal year.

Planning strategies are in preparation to manage finances, following completion of the mortgage payments. Linda suggested that engaging a bookkeeper may also be a consideration for the new board of trustees.

The treasurer report is accepted.



Gratitude

Commons trustees stepping down include: Maya, Louise, Alison and Cameron.

Maggie applauded Maya for stepping into the treasurer position as well as for coaching her on the role of financial assistant.

K Louise thanked Louise, who was unable to attend, for her way of bringing an open heart, skills and spirit to the role of secretary.

Fay thanked Alison, who was also unable to attend, as an excellent co-chair who kept meetings moving along, in a peaceful way.

George thanked Cameron for assisting Louise and for the Heron thank you notes.

Acclamation

K Louise and George introduced four new trustee candidates.

David Chorneyko has been tending the Commons orchard, as well as managing first aid for the Commons.

Deb Ferens, who was unable to attend, has been a member of: the steering committee for the Commons, the long range planning team, the covenant planning team, trustees and also prepared the special zoning for the Commons.

Judith Plant has been engaged in New Society publishing and has a visionary approach to practicing environmental stewardship.

Allie Charron is a chef, gardener and yoga instructor and is committed to sustainable processes.

K Louise recommended that the four candidates be accepted by acclamation. No further candidates were nominated.

The new trustees were accepted by acclamation.



Planning

Linda presented an opportunity for all to participate in a long range planning workshop to be held November 27, 2016 from 1:00 to 5:00.

While much has been accomplished at the Commons, new priorities may be established. And these may include: the Goat Barn Cafe project, the Timber Frame Structure, Watershed planning for the Commons, a Pond Observation Platform, as well as new uncharted possibilities.

K Louise added that, as well as tangible projects, intangible projects may include Land Trust opportunities and new forms of Commons communication.

Agm adjourned.