

Gabriola Commons Coordinating Council

Notes for Feb 07, 2012

Present: Judith Roux & Linda St Clair (co-facilitators); Sharon Pattison, Ulrike Porat, Mary Wilson, Gloria, Shelagh Huston, Susan Yeend, Joyce Ashley, Sheila Brooks, Patrick Roux, Hans van Kessel, Erika, Fiona Simmons, Aidan Simmons, Christine Purfield, Davy Bouvier, Maya Ruggles, Muriel Weins, Mary Aitken, Stephanie Marrie, Michelle Benjamin, Alison Fitzgerald, Victor Anthony, Jinny Hayes (recorder).

Guests: Ken Zakreski & John Haig – Gabriola Co-op Radio

Team and Group Reports (submitted reports attached, below)

Elder Eco Village (Alison)

Heide is stepping down from leadership in the group; Kit Pepper will be the interim contact person. Fortunate to have two architects in the group. Need an official survey. Have a consultant from the Vancouver Coop Federation coming to speak to the Group soon.

- Discussion about whether this consultation should be open to other interested groups; decision TBA
- Concern: Want to be involved in planning the next stage of zoning change.

Next meeting: February 17 at 3 p.m.

People for a Healthy Community (Michelle)

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commons and PHC and the lease are currently in process. Fence building went well and is almost finished. Green house is underway and the shed is almost complete. A volunteer has dug a trench for piping for cistern.

Volunteers (Stef) Full report attached, below

Couple of new volunteers.

Special Events (Stef) Full report attached, below

Trade Fair is March 10. Volunteers are needed to organize and staff the Commons Information table at the event. Other events for 2012 in report below

- Issue/Concern/Question about where the funds raised at such events are to be designated (see below, "Issues Arising").

Labyrinth (Mary) No report.

Financial (Christine P.)

There is no money for Teams to request; teams need to raise their own funds. Commons is projected to be in ~ \$2,000 deficit for operating expenses for this year, though in Christine's experience this will self-correct by year-end. Good news: mortgage has recently dropped from \$449 to \$445 K.

Communications (Jinny) Full report attached, below

Current brochure will be revised soon due to a few needed corrections—Please get any change requests ASAP to Jinny vhayes@uvic.ca or 257-8898.

Year's planning has been discussed in the light of limited team members. Two new initiatives: regular articles for papers to better inform community of value of Commons, and website videos on topics of interest to community members.

Next meeting: Tentatively March 5 at noon at Commons.

Infrastructure (Aidan) Full report attached, below

Aidan has taken on facilitation of this team from Hans, who was acknowledged for his significant contribution to INF. Work has been reconsidered in the light of 3 main goals related to team overview, technology & projects review. Coordination with other teams will be a focus.

Next meeting: Feb 16, 1.00 pm

Bookings (Sheila B)

Sheila and Joyce are developing documents to help with turn-over to a new person taking over Bookings. A Bookings volunteer will be needed within 6 weeks as Sheila has been called off-island for her paid work. Joyce is willing to help out part-time.

Sharing the Commons (Sheila B for Kit) Full report attached, below

Deb Ferens attended meeting to overview land use and zoning issues that will be relevant to the Elder Eco Village proposal. Namaste Farm Allotments have been approved in principle for 2013. Bob Andrews also attended a meeting to update on the Sustainability Centre and its "living roof". Kitchen building grant application is being prepared, as well as a "reception chart" for main foyer.

Next meeting: March 7 at 10.00 am.

Farm Management (Susan) Full report attached, below

Team volunteers helped with building new fence. A new post is needed in corner of orchard. MoU for the Namaste Farm allotments is in process.

Next meeting Feb 20 @ 4pm

Peacemaking (Shelagh) Written update to group embers is forthcoming.

GCF Board of Trustees (Shelagh for Victor) Minutes of Board available on request

Discussed teams: INF now landing on its feet; Property Management coming. Preliminary budget was discussed (see above Financial Report), and report from the Mortgage Elimination Project (MEP). PHC lease and MoU are being addressed by working groups. Appreciation letters to donors were sent out by another working group.

Grant writing Team is addressing Community Kitchen, EEV, and Lions Club, possible for improving second-floor access in house. Covenant Group has almost finished reviewing the current draft, ahead of schedule.

Next meeting: Feb 9 at 3.00 pm.

Learning Opportunities (Mary)

Want to visit all teams to see what knowledge and learning needs are "resident" on the Commons, perhaps to be addressed in ways other than in workshops. This info will be used for vision-making. Team is a resource, not a gate-keeper.

Next meeting: Feb. 21 at 11.30 am.

Issues Arising •••

1. Usage of funds raised at various Commons events.

Operating expenses are in deficit somewhat, but will likely be OK; however, there is no surplus for teams. Some teams have their own self-raised funds.

Use of donations is clear when the donor has specified, otherwise the monies go into general revenue. Normally, anything left over at year-end does go towards the mortgage. This year, any surplus will likely be assigned to property management, as it is acknowledged that maintenance is necessary to maintain the value of the Land and Amenities, such as the upstairs deck on the house. There is an accounting "Line" for routine maintenance.

Agreed: Fundraising for specific purposes is desirable, but donors need to know clearly and specifically in advance of making their donations.

2. Keeping Commons clean and tidy (Linda)

Suggested that everyone do a little to contribute to "good housekeeping", perhaps before or after meetings or other uses of House, gardens, etc.

Other Business

1. Commons Dinner Fundraiser (Ulrike)

Ulrike plans to take this event on for Spring 2012. She reviewed how \$2000 was raised in 2010. **Agreed** that this was a good idea to proceed with for this March and April; dinners to be ~\$30 again. She will send copy to Maya for this week's Updates.

Unresolved discussion about whether these should be advertised to community at large or stay localized to Commons e.mail list.

2. Gabriola Coop Radio (Ken Zakreski)

The station has received CRTC approval for 98.7 FM, to be operational within 18 months. Programming must be available to Gabriola community to use. Currently doing outreach to the community and fundraising. They will be training community members to plan and use the programming potential of the widespread radio coverage. Studio and tower placement and energy source TBA. Popular, most listened-to times were reviewed. Teams are encouraged to discuss the Commons use of this valuable future resource; some grants may be available. Watch <http://www.ckgi.ca/>

Note: Paper document *Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2011-679* (5 pp.) given to Jinny; will ask archivists to file in the Commons Office.

3. Commons Coordinating Council Functioning (Jinny)

Jinny reviewed the discussion from the October 2011 meeting. Time remains constrained at Council meetings, and written reports are not consistently available to review prior to meetings. Suggested that any team or individual with a known agenda item get this to the CCC facilitators in advance so that those attending could know ahead of time what

will be discussed. Where the minutes of CCC meetings go and how they are used was reviewed; to facilitate intra-Commons communication, items reported do need to be shared with team members.

CCC functioning is part of larger, broader questions about the future of operations on the Commons, ie, the principles underpinning the Commons as well as the “nuts and bolts” of how such a complex entity functions.

Agreed: Another special meeting to pursue these questions further – TBA.

Next CCC meeting is **Tuesday March 6th @ 7 pm** at the Commons.

Attachments: Team Reports

PHC notes to Commons Council, 7 February 2012

- two PHC Board members are working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding, for review with the lease-drafting team of the Commons
- an enthusiastic team of community volunteers joined PHC staff to erect the new fence. The gate is still to be completed.
- the greenhouse construction has started. Piers are in place, and the framing will begin this week.
- the storage extension is close to completion -- the roof and a door were installed this week.
- we have a young community member doing community service work this month -- his efforts are being put toward the trench for the irrigation system.

Volunteers & Events For February 2012 Council Meeting

1. There are approximately 80 Volunteers in the email group, and another 20 who can be contacted by phone. There is rarely a response to email blasts for volunteering opportunities, so the current method of enlistment is through phone calls within a week of an event. No activity was reported for the February 2012 Council Meeting.
2. The Trades and Services Fair planning is well under way, with ads for participants in the Sounder Upcoming Events, posters and on the Community Facebook page. There are currently 18 participants signed up. **Request for assistance** in running the Commons Table was announced to Council, with no immediate takers. Stef will send out more details to Council Members, along with suitable groveling, encouragement and bribery to fill the position.
3. Here are the events with dates, actual or tentative
 - Trades and Services Fair - Mar. 10 th
 - Spring Fair - May 5th
 - Community Garage Sale - July 7th (tentative)
 - Fall Fair - Sept. ???
 - Christmas Craft Fair - Dec. 1st
 - Victor Anthony Concert - Dec. 8th (tentative)

Communications Team Notes for 31 Jan 2012

Last meeting, talked about 4 main issues:

1. Commons brochure: new edition forthcoming since Covenant Grp blurb is incorrect.
2. Tracking that a couple of groups are not intuitively find-able on the website.

3. Forthcoming writing:

Mortgage Elimination Project (MEP) planning 3 articles for papers; to run in paper Feb 15 to March 15 to coincide with a drive to pay down mortgage.

- To emphasize human interest in relation to Commons
- A new person to write using material submitted to her:

4. Goals to Accomplish this Year

- Web site
- Updates
- Flickr
- Articles from Sharon ??
- Brochure
- Upcoming events
- Editing as required.
- More promotion of Commons in the community
 - Create a higher profile through personal stories
 - Possible regular monthly **column** in papers
 - You Tube series ie, This is what the Commons looks like, operates, and you gain from (concrete). Examples: Using an allotment garden; rental possibilities at Commons; what teams do
 - When Commons contributions to community are more visible, it's easier to fund-raise.
 - Please get names of anyone interested in taking the videos to Doug

5. Growing the Team: One person for each COM responsibility (above) will help reduce meetings to maybe Skype.

6. Input on Council future

Next Meeting: March 5 @ 12 noon @ Commons.

Infrastructure – Commons Council Report. - January 2012

An informal meeting took place to discuss the Infrastructure team, progress and setup following the stepping down of **Hans van Kessel** – to whom we owe a great debt for his steady hand, wry humour and herculean effort. Many Thanks.

In the interim: Aidan Simmons will write up and issue minutes, be the contact point for the INF team and attend Council meetings (1st Tuesday - Monthly).

1. Overview of INF

- a. Review of the current project chart, update as necessary.
- b. Look at the INF mandate, project facilitation and services provided.
- c. Project overview programme.

d. INF team responsibility – define and clarify.

2. Technology.

Commence the development of alternative energies, their application, practicality and relevance to projects currently at the Commons.

3. Project Review.

- a. Revisit all current project currently submitted to the INF team, update, current status and progress.
- b. Review the process of project submission.
- c. Encourage links and interrelationship between project teams and INF.
- d. Place all project (plans) on a single drawing of the commons.

Contact Details:

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Next Meeting: Proposed – 16 Feb 2012 @ 13.hrs.

Sharing the Commons Report for February Commons Council

Sheila B gave the report this month because Kit is away.

STC has had two meetings since the last Council:

Highlight of the January meeting was guest speaker Deborah Ferens, who presented an overview of land use and zoning issues that would be relevant to the Elders EcoVillage proposal. She also brought print copies of an excellent, comprehensive summary of all the zoning and land use documents relevant to the Commons, and to everyone's delight explained it all so articulately that it was truly clear, and interesting too. Thanks Deb! STC will continue work on this project along with the Covenant and the Long Range Planning Teams, as well as the Elders EcoVillage Team.

Something else to get excited about is the new proposal currently being referred to as the Namaste/ Commons Allotments, which Sharing the Commons supports moving forwards on.

Highlights of the February meeting included guest speaker Bob Andrews, on behalf of the Sustainability Centre. We're enthusiastic about the 'living roof' and the Commons is looking for volunteers to work on it in April.

There is an application in for a large grant for the kitchen building, thanks to the hard work of Judith Roux and George Santos.

A Commons 'reception chart' is being designed for the front entrance, to be more welcoming and to help alleviate time-consuming inquiries to PHC staff.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 7th at 10:00 am

Farm Management Team Report to February Council

Activities:

- participation with P.H.C. in moving the fence in front of house
- renewing corner posts in orchard
- proposed new allotments@ Namaste Farm Discussion & approval .

Next meeting: Feb 20 @ 4 pm