

# Gabriola Commons COUNCIL

## Minutes for Meeting of October 2, 2012

Present: Aiden Simmons, Heide Brown, Allison F., Maya Ruggles, Susan Yeend, Gloria Filax, Robbie Huston, Alina Cerminara, Mary Aitken, Doug McKnight, Rebecca Furnell, Judith Roux, Patrick Roux, Muriel Wiens., Raymond Tremblay, Patsy Ludwick, Shelagh Huston (co-facilitator), Linda St. Clair (co-facilitator), Mary Wilson (recorder)

### TEAM Reports:

#### *Communications* (rep: Heide Brown)

- The communications team is functioning well, mostly virtually rather than with meetings, with different people taking on different roles.
- The team would love to have more members and sends the following note: The Communications Team invites you to come play with us. We do things like write-ups and liaison with the papers about ongoing and upcoming events, collection of up-to-date information about the Commons for our Website, information tables at events, newsletters, etc. We have a variety of opportunities available, and would welcome your participation. To find out more please call Heide, 247-7384, preferably between 6-7:30 in the evening (or leave a message anytime), or email [heidebro@telus.net](mailto:heidebro@telus.net) .
- Next Meeting: No meeting set

*Covenant – No report this meeting*

*Event Planning – No report this meeting. See discussion below.*

#### *Farm Management* (rep: Susan Yeend)

- Lots of deep watering happening due to the ongoing drought.
- The team went on an interesting field trip to John Switzer's farm.
- Lots of harvesting going on, and beans, potatoes, onions and garlic are stored in the kitchen.
- Lots of participation at the farm table at the fall fair – hulling beans, grinding grain and doing other things
- Next Meeting: October 15, 4:00 p.m.

*Fundraising – No report this meeting*

*Grant Writing – No report this meeting*

*Infrastructure* (rep: Aiden Simmons)

#### *Learning Opportunities* (rep: Mary Wilson)

- Upcoming – two forest gardening/ permaculture workshops scheduled for the weekends of Oct 20 and 27.
- LOT will be meeting in the next week to discuss making connections with the school.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 9

#### *Property Management* (rep: Patrick Roux)

- The walkway is complete, and the wiring has been roughed in for lights. By winter we hope to

- have the lights in place.
- The deck is complete.
- Ongoing project – organizing things that should remain in storage in the goat barn, and removing things that should not.
- Ongoing project – we are working to develop an emergency handbook for things such as shutting off water, etc. at the Commons.
- House workbee – Saturday, November 3 we will be hosting an in-the-house workbee from 10 to 12, followed by soup. Please do come and join in the fun as we work together to “fall clean” the second floor!
- Cob wall – likely the roof will be redone this coming workbee.
- Next Meeting: November Nov 5 1:00 p.m.

### ***Share the Commons*** (rep: Doug McKnight)

- STC will call a meeting with long-range planning, infrastructure, Sustainable Gabriola and others to discuss what’s happening with the Sustainability Centre.
- Last meeting discussed Muriel Wein’s story-sharing project.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, Oct 3, 10:00 a.m.

### ***Trails and Green Spaces*** – No report this meeting

### ***Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation*** (rep: Rebecca Furnell)

- The trustees report is appended to these minutes.
- Next Meeting: 2:00 p.m. Thursdays, twice per month – Oct 18 next meeting.

### ***Volunteers*** – No report this meeting

## **PROJECTS:**

### ***Community Kitchen*** (rep: Judith Roux)

- Had a meeting of 9-10 people to discuss management structure for the kitchen. This group will ultimately take responsibility for managing the kitchen, including collecting / setting rentals, cleanliness, access, etc.
- Several stainless steel counters and an extractor hood were purchased this month from the closing Zellers restaurant in Nanaimo.
- Next meeting: October 11, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

### ***Story-telling circle*** (rep: Muriel Wiens)

- A group where young and old could gather and hear one another’s stories – especially beginning with sharing the beginnings of the Commons, but going beyond that.
- Maya recommends the notice of first meeting go in the communiqué once a date is chosen– [infogabriolacommons@gmail.com](mailto:infogabriolacommons@gmail.com)
- Muriel will talk to some of those involved in the earliest days of the Commons to set a date

### ***Labyrinth*** (rep: Mary Aitken)

- Sept 12 very successful intro to walking the labyrinth, sponsored by Ecumenical Society.
- Oct 14 – bench dedication 3:00 p.m. for Hank Sirlin – talk to Allison if you want to be included.
- Oct 21 – bench dedication 3:00 p.m. for Kelly Berthelot – Victor and Joelle Anthony will lead the dedication and planting of maple tree.

## *Sustainability Centre*

- Will be discussed by a combination of Infrastructure, PMT, Sustainable Gabriola and interested individuals. STC to convene.

## **GROUPS**

*People for a Healthy Community – No report this meeting*

*Poetry Gabriola – No report this meeting*

### **Additional Agenda Items/ Issues arising:**

#### **A. Goat barn roof**

- The goat barn roof is leaking, and the Property Management Team has been investigating repair and replacement options. Patrick presented three options, for torch-on (\$5,000, applied professionally) and two types of metal roofing (\$6000-9000, depending on option chosen). Patrick/PMT will prepare a proposal for the trustees meeting. Following trustee review, the proposal will come to the next council meeting. The feeling of this meeting favoured the reusable metal roofing option, the most expensive of the three. Reminder that we should refer to the Green Building Guidelines.

#### **B. Islands Studies Conference – May 10, 11 and 12, 2013 at the Haven.**

- Gloria Filax, who lives on Gabriola and works for Athabasca University, introduced the idea of Island Studies. The conference will bring together community and academic researchers to explore the idea of islands. The organizers would like to have a field trip to the Commons from the conference. There will be people from Australia, Maui, Prague (!), Scotland, Greenland... There is also a possibility of participation in the conference, either through a panel or in other ways. This will be discussed first at Share the Commons.

#### **C. Special events at the Commons – discussion**

- There is no functioning special events team, and regular procedures for events are not documented. This can create confusion and a lot of extra work.
- Discussion focused on the idea of a small group (perhaps attached to the Communications team) that could work with others who are interested in particular events. An manual might be helpful too – with timelines, location of electrical outlets, etc.
- Suggested that there be an events update at each Council meeting, so all can be aware Rebecca Furnell agreed to work on next steps/lead the group for the moment.
- Current major annual events at the Commons:
  - December 3 – Christmas craft fair
  - Solstice potluck –
  - Spring fair (early May last year)
  - Trades and Services fair
  - Earth Day April 22 – which could combine with the spring fair
  - Easter egg hunt (venue)
  - Swap & Shop/Community Garage Sale
  - Fall fair
  - AGM

#### **D. Party - discussion**

- It's been a long time since we had a party. Discussion of possible times, nothing conclusive.
- Solstice? If we get another grant for the kitchen? The deck? After a roofing bee? "Raise the

roof"

**Next meeting** of Commons Council will be November 6, 2012 at the Commons. January meeting will be January 8, instead of January 1.

### **Homemade Soup is SO Appreciated at the Commons!**

One of the regular events at the Commons is the Saturday morning work bees culminating in a casual soup and bread lunch shared with others who have spent the morning on the projects-of-the-week. For the past couple of years, soup-making has been alternated among a small group of people who have enjoyed taking soup and bread to the Commons after the Saturday morning work bees and sharing in the camaraderie of the 12-15 people who come in from outdoors for rest, good food, good conversation and usually a few good laughs!

The soup makers need re-enforcement for the coming year! Do consider giving yourself a treat. It involves simply putting together a pot of soup (usually in your own home), picking up or making a loaf of bread, and taking both in to the Commons at noon on a Saturday. All dishes and cutlery are there, and clean-up is shared. There are dried beans and sometimes other raw materials available from the Commons gardens and always a petty cash to cover any expenses for the makings. If you want more information, please call either Judith Roux at 247-9948 or Yetta Lees Strasdine at 247-8198.

#### **Synopsis:**

**Hearty soup – usually vegetarian or chicken based**

**Bread/butter**

**Anywhere between 12 – 20 people**

**Most soup makers make the soup at home and take it to the Commons to heat up**

**Ready for 12 noon**

**There is a big soup pot at the Commons and all necessary equipment, cutlery, plates etc.**

**Variety of beans available from the Commons garden – sometimes also onions, garlic, potatoes**

**Clean-up is usually done by participants so not a big job for the soup-maker**

**A petty cash jar in the corner cupboard is intended for out-of-pocket expenses.**

**There are currently 4 people alternating. It would be very nice to have a couple more people so we could work on a casual 5-6 week rotation, allowing also for people being away.**

**Contact: Yetta [ylees@shaw.ca](mailto:ylees@shaw.ca)**

**Report to Commons Coordinating Council  
From GCF Board of Trustees  
For October 2, 2012**

A brief first meeting of the 9 new Trustees was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Appointed by acclamation at the AGM on Sept 22, they are:

New:

Heide Brown, Deborah Ferens, Robbie Huston, Yetta Lees Strasdine, Judith Roux, Aiden Simmons

Continuing:

Rebecca Furnell, Jinny Hayes, George Szanto

1. Thanks to all for attending the AGM, where we reviewed the activities of all the teams and groups, passed the by-law amendments, and amended the proposed changes to the Commons Principles after great discussion. These will be up on the website shortly.
  2. We set a regular meeting time of 2pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month, aiming for briefer meetings more often to try to stay on top of our agenda items and responsibilities.
  3. We decided on signing officers for CCCU (regular banking) and VanCity (mortgage). ALL trustees have to get to bank for this elaborate signing of documents, and this has been done so that all our deposits can move without hitches for the first of the month.
  4. Roles among board members will be discussed at our next meeting, but Yetta will be the Treasurer and will do the bookkeeping for the first couple of months; we thank her for jumping right into the money details with both feet. Rebecca will continue to be the Secretary. We discussed the pros and cons of having co-chairs; Jinny is serving as one for the time being.
- NEED:** Still looking for a bookkeeper for the year ahead. Please ask anyone you think would be good, or get that person's name to a Trustee so we can explore possibilities with her or him.
5. At our next meeting, we plan to set goals and priorities for the coming year.
  6. We have had a request from PHC to "take a second look" at the rent that we had set for the new 3-year lease. We discussed this thoroughly with our own finances in mind, and a revised plan has been sent to the PHC Board.

If you have anything you'd like the Trustees to discuss, please let Jinny or Rebecca know:  
[vhayes@uvic.ca](mailto:vhayes@uvic.ca) or [furnellr@gmail.com](mailto:furnellr@gmail.com)

Next meeting:

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at the Commons