

# Gabriola Commons COUNCIL

## Notes from the meeting of November 6, 2012

### **Present:**

Bob Andrew (cf), Maya Ruggles (cf), Judith Roux (r), Stef Marrie, Heide Brown, Muriel Wiens, Alison Fitzpatrick, Patsy Ludwick, Rebecca Furnell, Alina Cerminara, Hilary Peach, George Ryan, Raymond Tremblay, Patrick Roux, Kit Szanto, Jinny Hayes, EJ Hurst, Mary Rose

### **Team Reports:**

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

- All communications to go through Heide (i.e. to newspapers, website, Commons Communiqués) to ensure consistency. Both *Flying Shingle* and *Sounder* will offer regular space for Commons articles, and *Island Tides* is welcoming news about the Commons. Council notes will be available on the Commons website (Communiqués to give link.)
- Heide raised the issue of tree-cutting (see further under "TAGS")
  - Next meeting: as needed

#### **Covenant** (rep: Jinny)

Meeting with GaLTT raised a concern about their role in monitoring our broad Commons covenant (i.e. concerning more than conservation aspects). Discussion will be ongoing over the next years and in the meantime we are searching for alternative covenant holders, should TLC be unable to continue in that role.

- Next meeting: as needed

#### **Event Planning** (rep: Stef)

**Christmas Craft Fair** (Dec. 1: 10 to 4). Fully booked.

Need for contributions to Commons donations table.

- Next meeting: as needed

#### **Farm Management** (rep: Judith for Susan Yeend. & Sharon P.)

- **Intensive farming** project undertaken in Little Field with John Switzer has begun well with great workbee turnout preparing for roto-tilling and sowing of oats as future green manure to enhance organic matter in soil.
- **Apple juicing** is continuing with the last of the Commons apples.
- Concerns about algae clogging **irrigation** lines as pond water heats during summer / fall were discussed and alternatives to small feeder lines considered.
- **Namaste Commons allotment gardens**: green crop sown in preparation for first full year). EJ concerned about communication.
  - Next meeting: Monday November 12 at 4 pm.

#### **Fundraising** (no report, but discussions are underway)

#### **Grant Writing** (rep: Judith for George)

Waiting for Commons-wide discussion on Long Range Planning to help determine future vision for the Commons

#### **Infrastructure** (Judith for Aidan)

Drawings for **Community Kitchen** Project about to go in for RDN Building Permit and VIHA approval. Planning ongoing with Property Management Team, Kitchen Stewards and Finance Committee to coordinate project and launch work on facility.

- Next meeting to be announced.

## **Learning Opportunities** (rep: Mary Wilson) Report next Council

### **Property Management** (rep: Raymond Tremblay)

- Huge thank you to volunteers cleaning the house from top to bottom!
- **Replacing leaking roof on goat barn.** Accurate estimate was provided for 26 ga. standing seam roofing, including cost of removing existing roofing, providing flashing and fascia etc & taxes.: \$12,000. (Council previously supported an initial estimate of \$15,000 for this project.) After discussion \$3,000 was added as a contingency fund in case of unforeseen elements. It was suggested that the proposal return to the teams once again with a one-week deadline for responses. However, since the final total of \$15,000 was already supported by the teams at Council, logic prevailed and the project will begin with a planning meeting on Nov. 11 or 12.
  - Next meeting: Nov. 11 or 12 to plan the roofing project

### **Share the Commons** (rep: Kit Szanto)

- **Island Studies Conference** (May 2013). Commons invited to take part. Initial discussion by several teams suggested: 1) a panel presentation on the model of the FMT "show" at Pender Island (with 30 minutes of 3 or 4 lively speakers against a slide show backdrop, then Q &A) 2) then a "field trip" to the Commons with guides prepared to show people around. Response to invitation required by November 30.
- **Commons Kitchen Stewards.** After 3 meetings a **mandate** has been developed:  
"As a collaborative team the Kitchen Stewards will manage community use of the Commons Community Kitchen, developing policies and procedures to ensure safe, clean and equitable use of the facility."

Next stages include procedures and checklists to ensure a "safe, clean and equitable" sharing of the future kitchen. This is the first of the Commons "stewardship" projects and hopefully will serve to model others.

- the **Goat Barn** needs to be reduced to its essential contents to leave room for cages etc. of PALS (emergency response project for pets and livestock). "Clean out time"!

### **Trails and Green Spaces** (rep: Kit Szanto)

Heide raised the issue of the enthusiastic young trees needing to be removed; some for FMT concerns (excessive shading) or to re-create the long vistas apparent in 2005. TAGS has described a size of tree (min. diameter) not to be removed; others slated for removal will be identified with green surveyor's tape. Note that wood from the trees can be offered to the community as firewood (through the Lions, etc.) This will be raised once again as an issue at the next Council.

### **Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation** (rep: Jinny) Extensive report!:

- New Board co-chairs: Jinny Hayes and Robbie Huston. Robbie is contact person.
- PHC lease nearly completed, awaiting only the Schedule E (identifying PHC's belongings which can be removed should they leave the Commons.)
- Official note: PHC is actively seeking new premises to engage in further planning.
- all-day planning meeting of the Foundation Trustees will happen in January
- Long Range Planning to be paired with Fundraising planning.
- "Exit interviews" by Robbie to hear those leaving the Commons with concerns

- Legalities: still searching for original signed MoU's with Poetry Gabriola and Island Futures.
- Donations made in memory of Ken Capon. Council consensus: Undesignated donations will go to pay down the mortgage (a project dear to Ken's heart). In fact, default position for all undesignated donations is to pay down the mortgage. Question: what about a donation designating a project not on the Commons' radar screen? Do we need a list of "projects envisioned"? (see LRP and Fundraising!) Further note: no donations are accepted tied to name individuals etc.
- Treasurer's Report and proposed procedures (distributed). Discussion focussed on: Delegation of some of Treasurer's role to "Finance Assistant". Suggestion that, for lack of volunteers for this extended role, we may need to pay someone. This was met with a deeply felt protest (to avoid having paid staff on the Commons!)

**Discussion led to suggestion to be made to the Board of Trustees that the duties of the "Finance Assistant" be shared between 2 people: the classic bookkeeping (deposits, cheques issued and mail collected) and entries into Simply Accounting by someone trained in this.** During the discussion, Hilary volunteered information about Poetry Gabriola's accountant, who provides full assistance to their charity for a reasonable fee.

- Note: Donations made through use of the Village Foods Community card: initial requirement from Village Foods was that this go toward a specific project and the Community Kitchen was chosen. (This is the information given on the website.) However through a misunderstanding, the funds have been used to pay down the mortgage. This will be corrected.

- Next meeting: Nov. 15 at 2 pm.

### **Volunteers** (rep: Stef Marrie)

Christmas Craft Fair: Some volunteers would be welcome to help setup and take down  
We do need several volunteers to run the fundraising and information table of the Commons.

### **Labyrinth** (rep: Alison Fitzgerald)

Several ceremonies were held this past month: two benches (designed and built by Rick Cranston) commemorated the memory of Hank Sirlin and Kelly Berthelot.  
A ceremony to honour Ken Capon (one of the Commons founders) was also held there.  
Please feel free to walk the labyrinth at any time, without need for an occasion!

### **Stories at the Well:** (rep: Muriel Wiens)

Proposal: to meet for story-sharing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:30. (The structure will be clarified at the beginning of each gathering.)

Initial gathering: Thursday, November 22 at 1:30.

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS:**

### **Poetry Gabriola** (rep: Hilary Peach)

- PG AGM – announced a shift to a focus on "Art and Sustainability", (so no festival inviting poets from around the world.) This translates into a partnership with Island Futures on the Island Connections project (transporting artists from island to island for shared events.)
- Issue of wood stove: PG apologized for lack of communication before installing stove, and announced that a WETT inspection has taken place and the Fire Marshall has been asked to give a final approval. Questions about insurance were raised and will be addressed. Note that Missy and Andrew Nobels are custodians of the yurt and take care of booking the space. They will stay in touch with the Commons' PMT.

- a new MoU needs to be drafted between Gabriola Commons and Poetry Gabriola, excluding the possibility of connecting to the Commons electrical panel. (Both panels are now full and would not be able to ensure 60 amp service to the yurt.)

**Issues carried forward:**

- Minutes of Team meetings and Council notes should be archived at:  
[thecommons@shaw.ca](mailto:thecommons@shaw.ca)
- Sustainability Building
- Home-made soups

**New Business/Issues raised:**

- Paid staff on the Commons (Finance Assistant)
- Tree removal task force
- Allocation of money raised at events

**Next Council meeting: Tuesday, December 4, 2012**