

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
gabrielacommonscouncil@gmail.com
NOTES Meeting of May 6, 2014

Present: Muriel Wiens, Stef Marrie, Rebecca Furnell, Kit Szanto, Patrick Roux, Robbie Huston, Judith Roux, Pollen Heath, Stephen Levesque,

Co-facilitators: : Muriel Wiens (Regrets: Raymond Tremblay)
Recorder: : Judith Roux (FMT)
Next Council Meeting : June 3, 2014
Recording Team for next meeting : Long Range Planning

Meeting AGENDA

1. **Presentation by Pollen and Stephen of Watercliff Permaculture Farm**
2. **Team, Project and Group REPORTS**
3. **FOLLOW-UP** from previous meetings
4. **20 Minute Discussion:** Final discussion on the Consensus Process document for decision-making on the Commons.

REMINDERS & ACTION

Thanks to Muriel Wiens for her 6 month engagement as Council Facilitator. Raymond Tremblay will continue as facilitator for the next 3 months and **invites a new co-facilitator to volunteer before next Council meeting in June.** This process ensures a continuous sharing of the role of co-facilitator with an overlap of 3 months. If this is something you would like to consider, please contact Raymond at ray2604@telus.net

Ongoing DISCUSSION TOPICS - for 20-minute discussions:

- How to function without a Communications Liaison until someone steps into the role.
- "Personal Benefit" at the Commons
- Sustainability Building
- Signage
- Recognizing contributions
- How do we decide what gets sent out to membership?
- Website Update (will receive information package from Hans)
- Orientation to the Commons?

1. Presentation by Pollen and Stephen of Watercliff Permaculture Farm

Two events are being coordinated by Watercliff Permaculture Farm:

Workshop by Starhawk: “The Magic of Co-creation: Building Power in Groups” at the Commons on Wednesday May 14 from 1:30 to 7 pm including potluck supper. Tickets at Artworks and info at watercliffpermaculturefarm@gmail.com (See posters).

Help with setup on Tuesday (May 13) at 5pm would be very welcome!!

“Overgrow the System: Sea to Seed” - a group of musicians with film crew touring by sailboat to capture stories about farming on the Gulf Islands. An event was planned to happen on the Commons May 24 Saturday from 6 to 10 pm, including a potluck dinner, concert and dance. Date to be confirmed.

2. TEAM REPORTS: (Note: Many team reps were away and unable to attend this Council. Reports were not available for all teams.)

Event Planning & Volunteers (rep: Stef Marrie)

Spring Fair May 3 took place with good cheer in spite of cold rainy weather, with Maypole dancing, sale of starts and Commons early crops (first sale of our asparagus!), sale of manure by the 4H, demonstration of scything and a mini boules tournament. The concession was run by 4H (with great chili) and Howie and Christine’s specialty coffee.

The community responded with enthusiasm to the invitation to comment on the Hedge (following Raymond’s survey.) An initial count revealed close to 85% of respondents firmly wanting the hedge to remain exactly as is (with at most a slightly wider opening and maybe miniature openings.) Raymond will report more fully upon his return.

\$251.34 was taken in by the Fair (from concessions, t-shirts and produce.)

Farm Management (Judith Roux)

Detailed planning continued for crops to be planted in the Little Field and Kitchen Garden. Saturday May 31 will be the major planting workbee for most of the crops.

The compost bins in the kitchen garden will be moved to the south side of the garden (to coincide with the completion of the community kitchen.)

All allotments are taken in the South Garden; workbees are on Tuesdays and Sundays from 4 to

Next Meeting: Monday May 19 at 4 pm. (All welcome!)

Grant-writing Team (Judith Roux)

Our application to Bull Frog Power for funding a solar energy project on the Commons has been received positively. They have agreed to give 50% (\$11,250) of the requested grant, with the stipulation that community funding supply the balance. We are hopeful that the proposed project will meet the criteria of the Community Works Funding (for the capital costs of projects aiding in reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and an application for this is in the works..

Property Management (Patrick Roux)

Irrigation lines have been opened for this year’s watering.

The Community Kitchen project is proceeding slowly but steadily with the installation of the mechanical ventilation system and the fire suppression unit, the final installation of the enormous hood (thanks to Hilary Peach for an opportune visit at a key time for welding!) and ongoing mudding and sanding of the drywall.

Next steps: Epoxy on the floor, painting of ceiling and some walls, melamine panels on the

balance of the walls. Then with the hookup/installation of the ranges, sinks and stainless steel counters the kitchen is suddenly going to appear in a close-to-final form!

Stay tuned and come out to help at the Saturday workbees (9 to noon). Tentative date for opening: end of August.

Share the Commons (rep: Kit Szanto)

Kit reported on two current projects:

- the pottery cooperative proposed by Christos Glaros may have found an ideal home in the 150 sq.ft. storage area to the east of the goat barn, formerly occupied by Gabriola Theatre Players.
- an application was made to include a dining/meeting hall in the space between the Community Kitchen and the Work Shop as a separate project to be considered by the Long Range Planning Team. (It had always figured in community visioning events as part of the overall “goat-barn complex” and had not been analyzed on its own merits.)

A Bike Fair (with bike rodeo?) is being discussed as a possible event this summer. It was suggested that it might combine well with the annual Garage Sale (July 12). Rebecca will talk to Victor about this.

Next meetings: May 7 (then June 4) at 10:30

Trails and Green Spaces

TAGS went next door to remove daphne at the Rollo Centre. There is lots .

According to a local botanist, daphne has taken over many of the woodlands on Vancouver Island in the last 15 years.

Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation (rep:

Next Meeting: First Thursdays (2 pm) and Third Thursdays (4:30 pm) monthly

PROJECTS:

Community Kitchen (rep: Judith Roux)

Work on the kitchen is proceeding well, and most major expenditures for materials have been made.

Labyrinth (rep: Mary Aitken)

Signage: Robbie reported; task force has met, and begun the process of discussing signage.

Goat barn: Robbie reported; awaiting a response from the Islands Trust planner concerning zoning for the Goat Barn Phase I (new Roxy)

Solar Energy: With agreement from Bull Frog, a portion of the project may begin this summer.

GROUPS

People for a Healthy Community (rep.: Brenda Fowler)

FOLLOW UP from previous meetings:

Reminder: Book launch on May 23: *Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good* by Heather Menzies May 23rd, 5 to 8 pm.

20 Minute Discussion: Final discussion on the Consensus Process document for decision-making on the Commons.

Background: The document outlining the general policy on decision-making on the Commons has been agreed upon, with one remaining aspect to be clarified: the process for reaching consensus. *For more information, review the **Decision Making Document** at <http://gabriolacommons.ca/pdf/decision-making-20130410.pdf>* The following document was presented at the April Council meeting with the request that it be circulated via the communiqué for broader consideration. Comments were solicited and it was agreed that a decision on the document would be made at this May Council if it met with no opposition. There was discussion on some details in the feedback, but it was agreed that the suggestions did not constitute opposition to the document. With one addition agreed to by all present (that consensus decision-making be used “throughout the Commons” and not only at Trustee meetings) it was agreed, after hearing no negative community feedback to the document sent out by Communiqué, that the Commons Coordinating Council accepts the Policy Statement on Consensus decision-making on the Commons:

Policy Statement on Consensus decision-making:

“Consensus decision-making will be used at all Trustee* meetings”. (**Gabriola Commons** Foundation By Laws Part 6.33)

Unity does not mean unanimity; it means the best general agreement possible in a reasonable time period.

Procedure:

1. Introduce the proposal.
2. Clarify questions and call for concerns.
3. Amend and modify the proposal through more discussion, or withdraw if there is no support at all.
4. The facilitator of the meeting will then ask for any further changes, reservations, or objections. The following options are ways to indicate a lack of support for a proposal or decision:

- Non-support – I don’t see the need for this, but I will go along.
- Reservations – I think this may be a mistake, but I can live with it.
- Standing aside – I personally can’t support this, but I won’t stop others.
- Blocking – I cannot support this or allow the group to support this.

5. If there are no further amendments or objections, the decision will be accepted.

6. If a proposal is blocked, the decision making process is suspended until a resolution process is activated.

7. Resolution Process:

Blockers are given the opportunity to present reasons for blocking which must be clearly stated and recorded.

Reasons for blocking must meet criteria that demonstrate the decision would: jeopardize the legal existence of the Commons; place the Commons in an untenable financial position; create irreversible impacts on the land and the environment (Do No Harm), constitute unethical or imprudent behaviour. After an agreed upon time frame to consider the blocking in light of the criteria, the issue is re-introduced for a decision. If the new information does not persuade other members to change the decision, the decision goes ahead.

If the block does not meet the criteria but raises some concerns, the group should consider moving forward cautiously with the decision and action.

The nature of the block and the blockers will go on record along with the decision.