

Commons Coordinating Council, June 2, 2015

1. 20 minute discussion –

Commons Field Guide and Orientation to the Commons (Trustees)

This was an explanation rather than a discussion - Robbie reported on the new idea to make the Trustee Handbook more readable, less detailed than our previous information about the Commons. The history has been minimized, and the focus is on the structure, teams, and our consensus system for decision-making. Details about by-laws and such will be at the end, for those who want more detailed information.

Robbie also explained that the Gabriola Commons Society, which has been dormant for a fair while, will be maintained for a bit longer in case it should prove helpful in the future for some reason. Jinny, K. Louise, and George will be the 3 new directors.

Guy suggested making a 3 minute video to put on the internet (or web site) might be a popular way to introduce the Commons to the public. Discussion followed.

2. Reports –

a) Long Range Planning – Deborah distributed 2 large sheets with the information on them, smaller versions of the LRP chart we have up in the small room. She gave a relaxed explanation how the priorities were developed, how and why they can shift sometimes, given circumstances – and that these priorities are “flexible and dynamic.” Discussion followed on examples of the recent shifts, like the solar panels work now going on.

- The next meeting will be September 2 at 2 pm.

- There was discussion about when a new workshop should be held to update priorities. Many felt that another workshop this Fall was too soon.

- The next meeting is September 2.

b) Commons Namaste Allotment Gardens – Guy reported things were going very well, that 4 plots are still open, and that PHC had a plot there as well.

c) Trails and Green Spaces (TAGS) - No new news. Kit reported that TAGS meets at Saturday work bees or by email when

decisions need to be made. New TAGS members are always welcome.

- d) Share the Commons (STC) - Kit reported again on the need for us all to discuss the idea of developing an alternate driveway and parking area west of our current one, since we now do not have enough space for the numbers of cars that arrive for various get-togethers at the Commons, and parking on the side of the road seems to create potential dangers. Property Management and Infrastructure have been contacted to see if they have some unrestricted funds that could be used for this project. Leveling the ground, adding gravel, and taking out several small firs, about 10 or so, will be necessary. There will be a few options for this development. When we see the plans, with details about width of driveway, where it and parking spaces will be, plus where the connection to the current driveway will be, we can then have a fuller discussion of this development. Once a decision is made, any trees to be cut down will be tagged, so anyone worried about the felling of trees may see which ones will be taken down.
- STC agreed that we prefer the phrase, "The Gabriola Commons: where land and people meet" to our present one, "A place for everyone."
 - STC approved Susan Brockley application to put on the Christmas Alive performance next December. The performance will be Dec.19, 4-6, with rehearsal Dec.12, set up Dec. 18, clean up Dec. 20.
 - STC has continued to be concerned that the Commons needs a few more people to help Patrick keep an eye on the varied mechanical aspects of the Commons, electricity, water, gas, etc. specifically in case of an emergency. John Peirce has come forward but we will need more people who understand the working of these systems, and who can respond in case of an emergency.
 - STC raised the issue of break-ins and how best to cope with it. Since this topic was on the agenda, no more was said about it.
 - **Next STC meeting: June 10, at 10 am. (Note: this is a change from the usual 3rd Wednesday in the month.)**
- e) CPR - Muriel noted CPR would be grateful for more members.

- f) FMT – Judith reported on the 2 mid-week Tuesday Farmers’ Market and said now it will be held on Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5:30.
- g) Infrastructure – Judith expressed frustration at fact the septic tank has not yet been done, and the fact the Community Kitchen can’t start up without that being finished.
 - The Team will be reforming this month and will look at the parking situation and come back to Council with suggested approaches drawn out.
- h) PHC – Brenda reported the gardening had gone very well with the school kids, making a great farm to school connection. She mentioned a project the Rec Society and PHC would like to develop, preferably with the Commons, to teach food preparation, covering cost, nutrition, and “survival cooking” for 10 yr. olds and up – for kids feeding themselves when no adult is home to make meals, for seniors, and anyone in between.
 - A discussion arose about the difference between PHC and the Commons, and the occasional frustration that many people do not know the difference. Deborah made a nice distinction: PHC offers services and programs, the Commons is a space where people can provide, create and share their own programming. This is a possible 20 minute discussion topic.
- i) LRP – Deborah noted the next meeting is September 2.
- j) Kitchen Stewards – Charles said the next meeting is June 11, and Judith added that Julie Sperber (of The Old Crow) and her partner were interested in helping with this KS work.
- k) Trustees – Robbie reported that the budget for last year was very neatly set up, with expenses exactly meeting revenue within a few dollars. The budget for the upcoming year seems good. Judith asked for a discussion of unallocated funds at the next Council meeting. The next meeting of Trustees is June 4.
- l) Communications – Rebecca reported the Spring Fair went very well and made about \$500. Planning for the Fall Fair will be June 5, at 1:30. There will be a meeting about signage on June 22, at 10 am. John mentioned an excellent example of information signs at the new home of the Salt Spring Conservancy at the Blackburn Reservation. He will forward pictures etc. to the Signage Task Force and the PMT.

- m) Property Management – Linda reported they had met today and would meet once a month to plan, and also meet on Fridays to discuss the Saturday projects. An assessment of what is needed in the farmhouse for maintenance/minor upgrades has been completed. Next meeting will be June 12 from 3-4 to prepare for Sat. work-bee.
 - n) Covenant Team – Deborah reminded everyone about the major Bio Mapping day on June 21. Judith added that there would be breakfast for people, involving pancakes, and a pot luck supper in the evening with dancing led by Don Buskirk – if we are sure there will be a minimum of 10 willing dancers.
3. Follow-up from previous meeting
- a) Linda read a thank you note from Mary Aitken, including the information she was taking a break from the Commons due to health issues.
 - b) The idea of following up on the CPR suggestion last month of a new Green team was discussed briefly – if people want such a team, they should get together, suggest a plan, take it to STC.
 - c) Report on Gertie – Fay Weller will report sometime later about the referendum on Gabriola to see whether we will continue to have Gertie or not. After the referendum, if the Community wants Gertie to continue, there will be consideration about where Gertie’s terminal will be. The Commons will need to have a discussion about whether or not it wants to offer a long-term home for Gertie.
 - d) New facilitators needed.
 1. June – August - John Peirce and Linda St. Clair
 2. Sept. – Nov. – Linda St. Clair and Muriel Wiens
 3. Dec.15 – Feb. 16 – Muriel Wiens and ???
 4. March – May 16 –
 5. June – August 16 –
 6. Sept. – Nov. 16 –
 - e) Need for more volunteers for PMT, several tasks need oversight
 - f) Back up coordinator needed for Commons Bookings; Gloria Filax has agreed to take on prime role.
4. New Business

Security at the Commons (and Gertie and PHC), given some break-ins, thefts. After some discussion it was agreed a smaller sub-committee might form to discuss the complex issues involved, and bring their ideas to Council. This Task Force will consist of one rep from PMT, CPR, Trustees, PHC (and Gertie – agreed later). Linda offered after the meeting to facilitate getting the first meeting organized and held before the next Council meeting.

5. Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 7.

Notes – Covenant Team

Notes for August – Learning Opportunities Team