

Commons Council Meeting Notes January 9, 2018

Present: Deb Ferens, Bob Andrew, Tom Sones, Kit Szanto, Heather Menzies, Patsy Ludwick, David Lightly and Linda St.Clair
Co-facilitators: David and Linda
Notes: Linda

Future Facilitators: Continuing in April and ending in July-David Lightly
Beginning in April and ending in September—shared
by Heather Menzies and Deb Ferens, details to be
revealed!

Team Overview: Communications Team - Jinny Hayes

Attached to the minutes of the Council meeting is the team overview given by Jinny which covers their mandate, objectives and strategies. Their objectives for this year and the next are: enhance knowledge and understand about the Commons; promote participation in our activities and encourage the change oxide, concerns and hopes for the Commons.

Focused Discussion: The Hedge - David Lightly

A small group has been meeting and touring the “hedge” on the Commons with the landscape architects Cameron Murray and Laura-Jean Kelly since last year’s special session on the Hedge. Notes from that meeting are attached to these minutes for reference. However, because of illness Cameron and Laura-Jean were unable to attend this Council meeting. Before more “experimental” work is done on the hedge and final go-ahead decisions are made, there will be a *charrette* gathering the week of February 11 which David Lightly will call, to review next steps in this process. By the March 6 , Council meeting it is hoped more information and some visuals may be available.

Deb Ferens noted that it is not clear that no final decisions about the hedge have been through the Commons process and they were encouraged to keep this before the Council until we as a body make a final decision.

Team Reports

Communication Team -Jinny Hayes

Logo for Commons is being worked on with Tim Gambrell with a Design Brief by David Szanto. Website redesign is in process and we are asked to submit photos of the Commons and activities. Up date team mandates, strategies and objectives are needed. Send them to Jinny.

The Communication Team report is included as an attachment to Council notes. Next meeting in March TBA

Tool Library - Patsy Ludwick

Some design changes are in the works but no changes to the actual footprint. They will share plans with STC team. Also noted that changes in the hedge will impact their plans as well and want to be part of this process.

Finance (a sub group of the Trustees) - Deb Ferens

March 31 is the year end and it is time for teams to prepare next year's plans for revenue and expenses. It might also be helpful, Tom suggested, that teams look out further than the next year for projections.

Long Range Planning - Deb Ferens

On March 17 there will be a gathering at the Commons to review how the four proposed projects that were endorsed last year are progressing. Those include the Goat Barn Complex, Pond Viewing platform, Timber Frame building and the Water Project. Next team meeting is February 8 at 2 pm at the Commons.

Property Management - Bob Andrew

A stove for the house kitchen has just been donated and has been installed and is great improvement! We will need to learn how to use it however, as it has a glass top and many "special" features. Thanks for the helping hands from last week's working bee! PMT supported the wedding event on September 13 with the understanding that from this we will learn if this sort of event can be part of what is offered on the Commons...as this will be used for a couple of days. Next meeting TBA.

Sharing the Commons - Kit Szanto

The Woodworking Stewards will be joined by the Gabriola Woodworkers Build which will be a most helpful addition as reported by Patrick Olmstead to the STC. And MOU with the Lions for a container is being worked on by K. Louise and will be reviewed soon by STC. Brenda Fowler, Director of PHC, presented a proposal for sorting and storage expansion for their Zero Waste Program. She was asked to explore other partners for this project for to expand may be beyond the space and mandate of the Commons. She will report back to STC. Next meeting will be February 20 at 10 am at the Commons.

Meeting adjourned. Next Commons Council will be on March 6, 2018
Note take will be Trustees.

Note taker list:

April: Events and Communique

May: Sharing the commons

June: Property Management

July: Infrastructure

August: Farm Management

September: Process Team

October: Covenant Team

November: Communications

December: Community Kitchen Stewards

Open potential list: Bike Kitchen, Workshop Stewards, Timber frame Structure, Trails and Green Spaces, Learning Opportunities, Finance Group, Elder Eco Village

COM Report to Feb 6, 2018 Commons Council

Communications Team Mandate (January 2018)

Mandate

The Communications Team (COM) facilitates the exchange of ideas and information about the Gabriola Commons, both among Commons teams and individual participants and between the Commons and the Gabriola community.

Objectives for 2018-2019

1. To enhance knowledge and understanding about the Commons.
2. To promote participation in the activities of the Commons.
3. To encourage the exchange of ideas, concerns and hopes for the Commons.

Strategies

1. Attend and report regularly at Commons Coordinating Council.
2. Maintain the Communiqué, the electronic newsletter, to Commons members who wish to receive it.
3. Maintain the Commons website, assisting teams with posting of pertinent news and information.
4. Maintain an archive for photographs taken on the Commons.
5. Write and support others in writing articles for publication in local newspapers, on the Commons FaceBook page, various blogs, and other media.
6. Act as the primary point of contact/liaison with various media.
7. Facilitate Gabriolans' access to, and understanding of, the Commons land, events, and functions, eg, signage, maps, brochure, etc.
8. Promote attendance at Commons events and meetings using the Communiqué, website, local newspaper and other media.

Council Report

No further meeting since Jan 06, 2018

1. Team Mandate, Objectives & Strategies
Re-did ours for 2018-2019 – see above. Waiting on all other teams' except TPT and Grant Writing
2. Logo
Project currently with Tim Gambrill, along with a Design Brief, thanks to David Szanto. Tim to get us something in a week or two.
3. Website update
Jennie Shillington and David Szanto and I are progressing. More photos needed!
You may be asked to update some element of the current website content, by e.file.
4. Mail cubbies
Nothing more done this month. Plexiglass not found. Any ideas?
5. Next Meeting: March TBA

Transcription of Meeting
Discussion About the Future of the Gabriola Commons Hedge
May 13, 2017 1-3 pm

Attending (15):

Maggie Aldous, Louise Amuir, Tom Archdekin, David Arnell, Pat Durrett, Sheila Haniszewska, Freddy Harris, Jinny Hayes, John la Marquand, Dave Lightly, Catherine Robertson, Judith Roux, Patrick Roux, Kit Szanto, Jen Turner

Process: Edward de Bono's Six Hats

1. THE FACTS

planted 1980-ish. needs to be maintained. time consuming, labour intensive, less maintenance than NOT doing hedge, unsafe for women, can cut in half and it'll be fine, grows 1 foot a year, pseudo picata (hybrid of Western Red Cedar), if cut in half will grow back in a few years, people never prune it tight enough - needs to be almost all the way back, keeps noise, dust, exhaust out, more usable space, refuge for birds (is there a survey?), landmark, leaving it to go wild is a dead end, it'll fall apart in a good snowfall and break, fall is the best time to cut in this climate, lifespan 100 years, if we paid someone budget 40 hours for pruning and another 20 for cleanup, too tall for volunteers to be on ladders, 8' would be optimal and ok to cut it back to, complaints that vision is obstructed turning on to North Road, if any of the trees are removed, it will leave an ugly scar, circles and shapes will leave an ugly scar, if we do cut the sides cut on the eastside so it grows back faster, doesn't need soil amendment but does like water, was much higher 10 years ago, how does Rollo like it?

2. FOR

landmark, place for birds, noise, dust, exhaust filtration, keeps kids corralled, defines space, feel protected inside hedge, magic garden, aesthetics, privacy for clients of food bank, BEAUTIFUL hedge, will draw people here, don't have to worry too much about what's behind - hides a multitude of sins, comforting, tradition, welcome, warmth, sound barrier both ways, temperature regulation, microclimate/shade, sense of sanctuary, conservation, if gone more work on lawn, Baronial, without the hedge suburban sterile mall-like.

3. AGAINST

difficult for Doug to mow lawn, maintenance, time consuming, can't figure out where the commons is, intimidating, RCMP suggested we remove it for ease of patrolling, some people won't go behind the hedge, differentiation difficult between PHC and Commons, in the dark it's scary for new people, sense of either insider/outsider, Baronial, visibility getting on to N. Rd, need equipment, commitment, volunteers, job for an expert? whereas lawn might be ok for regular volunteers, hedge took 8 Or 9 volunteers x 7 days + 40 hours of John la M, barrier to volunteers, we're getting older, cost, fundraising, what's in there?

4. FEELINGS

LOVE IT! Cutting it is BAD! and indefensible! venerable, magnificent, heirloom, heritage, hi-maintenance love affair (it's complicated), scary, intimidating, unwelcoming, how do you get "in?", isolates between parking lot and house, daunting.

5. BEING CREATIVE

have a budget and get some younger arborists involved, lower it considerably on kitchen side, crenellated at various points, Maggie making a donation, Tom good to help (professionally \$40 per hour), David A offers to help (especially if he can chain himself to some part of the hedge in protest), Susan Y also offered to help to lower it, those that love it can help pay to maintain it. VFM fund in the future?, lawn underused, road access via Rollo road right of way? get school kids involved with stories, want to be able to see around, wider entrances, leave it 8-10' along road and lower everywhere else, drive through drive way and elevator for accessibility, safety at N. Rd, if removing some of the cedar we could replace with flowering shrubs in some of the scarred areas, FEDGE (food hedge) filling in scars at removal points will

allotment garden-style demonstration project, arch or gap in the middle (if practical), entrances for pedestrians rather than just drivers, consider relationships with Rollo and school and make openings to facilitate closer relationship, also consider relationship with PHC and deliveries, hedge fund happy to accept donations of money and volunteer labour, it's a design problem - needs to be beautiful and welcoming, suggest engaging a hedge designer.

6. PROCESS & CONSENSUS

it should be lower in many places; bringing it down to about 8 ft is about right
we need a hedge fund (so far collected \$107)
we need a design for the hedge (perhaps funded by the hedge fund?)
openings should be wider and more numerous
we want it to look more welcoming