

Commons Council Meeting  
January 3, 2019

Facilitators: Judith Roux & Note Taker: Linda St.Clair  
Present: Patsy Ludwick, Don Smardon, Bob Andrew, Lynda Toews, Maya Ruggles, Kit Szanto, George Szanto, Danielle Artuso, Brenda Fowler, Heather Menzies

Acknowledgement: We are meeting on the unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nations.

20 Minutes Discussion: Commons in the Winter Storm  
The Spirit Fest, which was scheduled to use the kitchen to prepare Christmas meal needed assistance for the generator went on/off during the cooking time. Both Patrick Roux and Bob Andrew came and were able to make the necessary adjustments for this important event. Many thanks to them!!!!

Learnings: we need both an upgrade for the generator and an assessment of what needs to happen for the water-pump in critical power outage times. Property Management Team (PMT) will look into this.

We also need to assess the role of the Commons in the case of future extended outage times and it was suggested that Shirley Nicolson, the Gabriola ESS co-ordinator be contacted. This may be a Trustees role initially.

Question was raised as to how the Commons manages the usage of outdoor space to both support events as well as protect the land. We need to ensure that the outdoor space is stewarded appropriately. Sharing the Commons (STC) was seen as a key contact point to take the MOU template formed by the Trustees and to adapt it for individual approved requests. It was recommended that we generally discourage **single use events** that while not closed are generally for a single group such as wedding. The question "will this be open to the public?" is asked when an initial request is made of bookings. It was noted that in the case of memorials held for Gabriolans these are viewed as more public events. Since the summer months are busy with major public events and the water supply is low, we need to be sensitive to how much the land can handle then and may need to consider establishing quotas for single functions. We look to both STC and PMT to be helpful in guiding us in the area.

**Tool Library (Patsy Ludwick):** A new board is in place and a request for the Trustees to address the renewal of their MOU now. This was duly noted by the trustee representative.

**Kitchen Stewards (Maya Ruggles):** No report. Meeting was delayed. Question was raised about removal of garbage.

**Learning Team (Maya Ruggles):**

First "renewed" group meeting was held in December and next meeting will be held on January 28 at 11 am with a focus on their terms of reference.

**Trustee Report: Finance Sub team (Don Smardon)** Insurance is paid. Question was raised about coverage for the semi renovation/use of the Goat Barn. Report is forthcoming. Council supported the Finance Groups motion to transfer \$5K to the line item of the Goat Barn to cover cost of electrical panel and other work done to make the building more useable at this time. Discussion is on-going regarding the allocation of the AGES donation of 63K.

**Trustees (Danielle Artuso):** Commons now has a membership list in place/recorded.

Jinny Hayes is working on a submission to Van City about our mortgage saga!

The next Trustee meeting will be January 15 at 2pm followed by a joint meeting at 4:30 pm with the board of People for a Healthy Community (PHC).

**PMT (Bob Andrew):** We have a contract with N. Read who has a license to test our water filtering system on an ongoing basis. Snow removal will be done by Steve Ricard and it is understood that the driveway toward the house on the far side cannot be done. PHC understands this and the Commons and Gertie will share costs for removal as needed.

There is a concern that we are potentially disturbing the well by the way the driveways and parking spaces are placed. PMT will be addressing this and potentially blocking some access routes and will discuss this with the fire chief as well.

**PMT-Bookings (Lynda Toews):** Clarity around outdoor bookings and MOU's needs to be communicated. Teams, including Trustees, Council etc. need to book rooms to reserve!!!

**PHC (Brenda Fowler):** Confirmed there will be a joint board meeting with the Commons Trustees. A Hospice Training session is being co-ordinated by PHC.

**FARM TEAM (Judith Roux);** hands are needed to start placing and preparing the ground by placing sea weed...HELP needed!!!

There will be an initial meeting to look at the transformation of the Goat Barn with those experienced in theatre layout and construction on January 11.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 5 AT 7 PM.

The Focus topic will be the HEDGE!!!!