

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
council@gabriolacommons.ca
Notes for ZOOM Meeting of May 5, 2020

Present: Deborah Ferens (Recorder), Louise Amuir, Maya Ruggles, David Lightly, Doug Scott, Bob Andrew, Don Smardon, Sharon Arnell, Jinny Hayes, Brenda Fowler, Rebecca Furnell, Pam McCartney, Linda St. Clair

Facilitator: Louise Amuir

Next CCC meeting: Tues, June 2, 2020 Co-Facilitators
Recorder for next meeting: (team & rep.)

FOR COMMONS TEAMS ATTENTION: Council has recommended striking a small Commons Task Force to address, research and develop a roll-out plan for continued Covid containment. This will consider the next phases (several months) for opening Commons spaces. Jinny (Communications), Deborah (Finance), Bob (Trustee) have volunteered so far. Please contact Jinny if someone from your team can volunteer for this task force communications@gabriolacomons.ca.

Ongoing Discussion Topics - for 20-minute discussions: NONE

Welcome/Check in ...

Special Agenda Items

1. Community Kitchen: (Rebecca Furnell)

General discussion and team input provided re: Kitchen Stewards' proposal for opening up rentals of the Kitchen during COVID-19 restrictions in order for renters to prepare food for the food stall at the Saturday Farmers Markets starting May 16, 10-2pm at the Agi Hall site. The Kitchen will be left dormant for 3 days between uses. No new users at present, as Stewards are not conducting orientations or inspections. VIHA (which issues the permit for the kitchen) has no objections to opening.) Farmers Markets have been declared an essential service by BC government. A half-hour of no-charge time will be added to each booking to allow time for even-more-thorough-than-usual cleaning and disinfection.

Those present agreed that this opening is acceptable. Finance Team requested that rental fees be left in the lock box on farmhouse door.

2. PHC Staff Use of the Farmhouse Upstairs Bathroom (Brenda Fowler)

Support provided for PHC request to use the Farmhouse upstairs bathroom by their staff members only and only on Tuesdays. The single downstairs bathroom is in use on Tuesdays for selected clients' showers. A PHC staff person will clean and disinfect the upstairs bathroom at the end of Tuesdays.

3. COVID-19 – What does emerging from current restrictions look like?

With expected BC government announcements that BC could be entering Phase 2 with some

loosening of restrictions, what will the Commons do? What would a roll-out plan look like? Suggested that a Commons Task Force be struck to address the issues, keeping in mind that any “opening up” will be very careful, slow and be informed by provincial guidelines, eg, those on BC Centre for Disease Control website. Task Force to report to Trustees (financial & legal) and Council. Bob (Trustees), Deb (Finance) and Jinny volunteered for this group; more people to volunteer to Jinny (see address in box above), who will call the first meeting.

4. TEAM Reports:

Communications: (rep: Jinny Hayes)

Not meeting presently, but some work progresses electronically as usual.

Covenant: (rep: Deb Ferens)

In March there was a teleconference call between Covenant Team members, The Land Conservancy (potential Covenant Holders) and the Agricultural Land Commission. ALC approval is required to put a covenant on the land. Good discussion. Follow up actions include: researching some successful examples of covenants on land in the ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve); continuing discussion with The Land Conservancy; draft the ALC covenant referral application for submission to the ALC.

- Next Meeting: Zoom May 6 at 2:45 pm

Farm Management : No Report

Namaste (rep: Sharon Arnell)

Going well. Lots of gardening. Thirty-three garden plots in use. Elizabeth Beale is the e.contact person.

South Gardens (rep: Doug Scott)

All plots rented (maybe 1 left). 300 sweet peas planted. COVID-19 protocols include providing soap and water & rubbing alcohol, paper towels and wipes, use own tools. Some South Gardeners will help with the Reservoir at Sat workbee. An offer to put a glass greenhouse in the South Garden has been referred to the Farm Team.

Finance (rep: Maya Ruggles)

Finance Team is meeting by Zoom.

- Next Meeting: Thurs May 8, 2020 at 3 pm

Long Range Planning (rep: Linda St. Clair)

Last Meeting Apr 24 (outside in the cool and windy weather in a circle appropriately distant from one another). The 15 year anniversary event, “Stewarding the Commons: Today and Tomorrow”, which was being planned for April is postponed/cancelled due to COVID. Good time to reflect on Commons work and what it means to be a Commons since the Commons is rapidly changing.

Flagged: The Commons, not being a service/program provider, needs to watch the administrative load.

- Next Meeting: Mon May 11 at 1 pm

Process Team (rep: Dave Lightly)

South Garden Team conflict resolution document reviewed by Process Team and was supported.

Property Management (rep: Bob Andrew)

Holding email meetings. Checking buildings weekly. The pond pump has been repaired.

Reservoir Project (Bob)

Lots of amazing work is happening at workbees! Next Sat workbee – Reservoir walls are going up, with next concrete pour shortly thereafter (the floor pour cost about \$7,000)
Project Finances: Remaining Funds: approximately \$13,000, so fundraising for this project should be resumed.

Share the Commons – No report

A question from Growls concerning storage space on the Commons came through to Judith; should go to STC.

Pottery Space: (Pam McCartney)

Pottery space will be an open public community space with Stewards and technical/operations oversight, possible workshops.

Items still to be discussed and determined include how will rental of the space align with bookings; rental income and the financial process with finance team, creation of the mandate.

ACTION: Jinny (Communication Team) will send Pam the mandate template and some examples of other team mandates

Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation (rep: Bob Andrew & Don Smardon)

Trustees have not met. Some email connection. During Covid-restrictions, access through lobby of the Farmhouse has been flagged for discussion, post ramp-down and ongoing.

Currently, during COVID-19 closure, the stairs have been blocked. Trustees will be looking at overall public and PHC access into/through lobby. More discussion required.

Bookings (Maya Ruggles)

Maya will be stepping back from the many contributions she has been making to the Commons, including Bookings; she will continue with the Trustees and Finance only.

ACTION: Jinny (Communications) is looking for a plan for advertising for her replacement on Bookings.

GROUPS

People for a Healthy Community (Brenda Fowler)

All PHC programs have been changed during this COVID-19 time. Three to four staff people continue to be on site about 4 days a week. Dining Room is closed; take-out food is assembled there. Food Bank orders are mostly being delivered, though there are about 5 or 6 of the hardest to reach people still coming to the site. Onsite staff receive and sort food deliveries and food donations. Numbers are up: 60 children (up from 30), 126 families and individuals (up from 80) are being served. Some people have access to PHC shower on Tuesdays (See item above).

Community Water (Linda St. Clair)

Louise raised the need for a community water at the last Zoom Sustainable Gabriola meeting on April 26; that group is looking into raising water as a big community issue.

Linda flagged a Commons concern: Public access to drinking water and other personal needs such as showering is not a responsibility of the Commons, especially as it is not a service-proving entity. COVID and possible future pandemics, climate change, droughts, etc. will contribute to increased shortage of water on Gabriola.

- What is the Commons' role in a community water system/process, eg, storage and access to potable water for everyone?
- What does long term water stewardship on the Commons look like?