

Gabriola Commons Foundation 2014 AGM Minutes

**September 20th, 2014
1:30 pm at Commons (“Big Room”)**

MINUTES: Rebecca Furnell (Outgoing Secretary, GCF Board of Trustees)

CHAIR: Robbie Huston (Co-chair, GCF Board of Trustees)

ATTENDING: (19)

Maya Ruggles, Jinny Hayes, Robbie Huston, Fay Weller, Susan Yates, Darlene Yuile, Judith Roux, Rebecca Furnell, Doug McKnight, George Szanto, Kit Szanto, Nancy Heatherington Peirce, John Peirce, Louise Amuir, Mary Rose, Margaret Aldous, Cameron Murray, Mary Aiken, Deborah Ferens

Regrets: Alison Fitzgerald

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and approval of 2013 minutes**
 - **Confirm quorum**
 - **Approval of 2013 minutes**
- 2. Introduction of trustees and thank you to those leaving**
- 3. Trustee report**
- 4. Treasurer’s report**
- 5. Team reports**
- 6. Motions – bylaw changes**
- 7. Nominations for new trustees**
- 8. Questions from floor**
- 9. Adjournment & thanks**

1. Welcome and approval of 2013 minutes

- **Confirm quorum**
Minimum number of 15 members was confirmed from the sign-in sheet
- **Approval of 2013 minutes**
Motion: Louise Amuir?
Seconded: Susan Yates
In favour: all (19)
Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0
Minutes approved

2. Introduction of trustees and thank you to those leaving

Robbie Huston introduced the trustees who will continue in the 2014-15 year (Attachment I)

Deborah Ferens (Treasurer, 1 year remaining)
Maya Ruggles (Finance Assistant, 2 years remaining)
Cameron Murray (2 years remaining)
Alison Fitzgerald (Co-chair and privacy officer, 2 years remaining)
Robbie Huston (Co-chair, 1 year remaining)
Judith Roux (1 year remaining)
Louise Amuir (new secretary, 2 years remaining)
Robbie also introduced and thanked the two outgoing trustees whose terms end as of this AGM.

Jinny Hayes
Rebecca Furnell

**note at this point Fay Weller who is a nominee for the board of trustees was introduced as she had to leave early. The total count of members present is 18 from this point forward.

3. Trustee report

Robbie Huston presented the 2013-14 Trustees' Report (Attachment II)

4. Treasurers report

Deborah Ferens presented her written report, the income statement and balance sheet for the 2013-14 fiscal year (ending March 31st 2014) (Attachments III, IV, V)

Discussion:

Susan Yates asked for clarification on the line "good will" from income statement. Deborah explained that this line shows the 3 month rental waiver given to PHC for October, November and December 2013.

Jinny Hayes asked why the fall fair is shown as a separate line from the events on the income statement when Deborah had said they would be combined. Deborah explained that starting in the new fiscal year (March 2014) these are combined.

Mary Aiken asked what the time frame for the amended PHC lease is. Deborah explained that the new rental agreement goes until March 2016 and that there is a clause for renegotiation if needed.

Linda St. Clair asked how the board expects to make up for the loss in rental income caused by halving the PHC rental amount. Deborah explained that the trustees have discussed this extensively, are keeping a close eye on cash flow and feel confident that the money needed to cover operating expenses will be raised. Linda asked if this was connected to the trustees fundraising campaign that has not been launched and Robbie Huston explained that the fundraising campaign was only for the mortgage paydown. Rebecca Furnell noted that the "expected" shortfall would be only in the case of no extra one-time donations (these often come around the

Christmas season) and that new monthly donors have agreed to have their donation go “where it’s most needed” / “operating expenses”. These two factors will likely reduce the “expected” shortfall.

John Peirce said that he would like to see an operating budget on paper. Deborah will bring this to the Commons Coordinating Council.

John Peirce asked what the line “interfund transfer” on the balance sheet refers to. Deborah explained that this is a figure determined by the external accountant that indicates the use of restricted funds throughout the year (by teams).

Nancy Heatherington Peirce asked how much of the money indicated on the balance sheet is unrestricted and how this compares to previous years. Deborah explained that approximately \$3000 dollars is unrestricted and that although it appears that we have lots of money in the bank, in fact it is mostly restricted and that for operating, (mortgage, operating costs, etc.) we use what we get in. Nancy suggested that in future showing a comparison to previous years finances would be helpful for people to better understand the Commons’ financial well being in the current year.

5. Team reports

Jinny Hayes gave a report summarizing teams highlights from the past year. (Attachment VI)

Discussion:

Deborah Ferens clarified that although there were other legal issues with the skate park application (Sharing the Commons Team) the Commons is actually zoned for having a skate park.

6. Motions for bylaw changes

Robbie Huston led the group through a series of proposed bylaw changes put forward by the trustees. Each motion was called, discussed and voted on as follows:

Note:

Italics represent a proposed addition

~~Strikethroughs~~ represent a proposed deletion

No seconder is required when the motion is put forward by the trustees

Motion 1

Part 3, 13.

The trustees may, when they think fit, or *when requested by Commons Coordinating Council*, convene an extraordinary general meeting.

Reasoning: Reflects the role of the Commons Coordinating Council on the commons

Discussion:

Nancy Heatherington Peirce noted that 10% of members can also call an extraordinary meeting as per the BC Society Act and noted that the proposals are required to be published 2 weeks prior to the AGM.

Rebecca Furnell and Jinny Hayes noted that these motions were published on the website and referenced in the newspaper 2 weeks prior to this date.

Louise Amuir noted that Commons Coordinating Council is the place for members to call an extraordinary general meeting. Susan Yates asked Nancy if she would like a clause added to the bylaw indicating the ability for 10% of the membership to call an extraordinary general meeting. Nancy said this was not needed since it was in the Society Act which the Commons is bound to anyway. Linda St. Clair noted that this proposed clause is more useful anyway as more people know about council than about the BC Society Act. Jinny noted that the point of this new clause is to increase the ability for people to call an extraordinary general meeting. Nancy said that the bylaw is fine as proposed and that she just wanted people to know about the clause in the Society Act. Maya Ruggles noted that the proposed change helps to ease the clash between the top-down, hierarchical – tending Society Act with the more collaborative and consensus based approach of the Commons (much of which happens through Commons Coordinating Council).

Opposed :0

Abstaining: 0

In Favour: all (18)

Outcome: Carried

Motion 2

(Change Title of Part 5)

Part 5 — Trustees ~~and Officers~~

Reasoning: Removes confusion, all officers are trustees and part 5 applies to all trustees equally.

Discussion:

Susan Yates said that she likes this change as it increases clarity and is more “Commonsy”|

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

In Favour: all (18)

Outcome: Carried

Motion 3

Part 5, 23

~~(3) If a successor is not elected, the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office.~~

~~(3)-(4)~~ A trustee term is not more than three (3) years; a trustee may not serve more than three(3) years consecutively. *In the event that a minimum number of trustees is not elected or appointed, a trustee previously elected or appointed may continue to hold office until the next AGM.*

Reason: no one is compelled to continue, even in this circumstance and they may not continue past the next AGM

Discussion:

John Peirce said that he thought the wording was confusing. With input from Darlene Yuile and Judith Roux the following wording was proposed and voted on.

~~(3)-(4)~~ A trustee term is not more than three (3) years; a trustee may not serve more than three(3) years consecutively. *If the minimum number of trustees is not elected or appointed, an outgoing trustee ~~previously elected or appointed~~ may continue to hold office until the next AGM*

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

In Favour: all (18)

Outcome: Carried with amended wording

Motion 4

Part 6, 34

A trustee who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the Society a waiver of notice, which may be by letter *or email*, ~~telegram, telex or cable~~, of any meeting of the trustees and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,

(a) a notice of meeting of trustees is not required to be sent to that trustee, and

(b) any and all meetings of the trustees of the Society, notice of which has not been given to that trustee, if a quorum of the trustees is present, are valid and effective.

Reason: more accurately reflects current methods of communication

Discussion: none

Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0
In Favour: all (18)
Outcome: Carried

Nancy Heatherington Peirce informed the meeting attendees that the Society Act is being changed and that major alterations include prohibiting the use “of unalterable” in a Society’s constitution and bylaw changes will require a vote of minimum 66% in favour rather than the current 75%. Generally these changes will make it easier to make changes in the organization over time. Societies will have a specified time frame to bring their constitution and bylaws in line with the changes.

7. Nominations for new trustees

The nominating committee (Jinny Hayes and Susan Yates) presented 2 candidates for the new trustees:

Fay Weller
Darlene Yuile

Both candidates were welcomed to the 2014-15 board of trustees.

The nominating committee members informed the meeting attendees that although they approached a large number of people about standing for the board of trustees only these two agreed. Many people said they would like to be involved but are simply too busy to make it work. Some people have said they would be willing to stand next year and these names will be passed on to the new board for next year.

8. Questions from floor

Robbie Huston called for questions from the floor; there were none.

9. Adjournment & thanks

ATTACHMENTS

D) Introductions and thank you to trustees

Robbie Huston
2014 thank-you to trustees

This is my chance to show my appreciation to my fellow trustees, especially those whose terms are drawing to an end.

Jinny - Jinny was my co-chair in 2012/2013 when I was a new trustee and she mentored me in many ways. She used to be a nurse and I know the rest of us drive her crazy from time to time with our lack of discipline and order. She has always kept us on track and made sure that things got done when they should. But don't let those sterling qualities

fool you, she's always quick to laugh and she throws great parties. Thank you so much for all you've done over the last three years.

Rebecca - Rebecca is the super-organized source of all information. Whenever I wanted to know what we had agreed to do, I just typed "Rebecca" in my email search bar and it was all there. I don't know what I will do now. No one ever told her that being a trustee was serious business, and so she never took it too seriously. The board will not be the same without you. Thank you.

Deb - Deb's role as Treasurer is so important that it tends to overshadow her other contributions to the trustees. Many years of work with many organizations have given her a deep appreciation of the specialness of the Commons and she always brings us back to that and reminds us of the importance of our underlying philosophy.

Judith - nobody on this planet is more passionate about the Commons than Judith. She's been here from the beginning and she knows more about the place, both now and in the past, than all the rest of us combined. She often comes late to meetings, and usually covered in dirt, which should tell you what she'd rather be doing.

Robbie - Robbie has been unnecessarily argumentative and usually forgets what he's supposed to do unless Alison or Rebecca reminds him.

Alison - Alison couldn't be here today because of her mother's health, but I'd like to thank her for supporting me as co-chair, keeping our meetings running smoothly, and being a calm and happy presence on the board.

Maya - Maya took over from me as financial assistant and handles that job with grace. More importantly, she brings a gentle but penetrating thoughtfulness to the board. She thinks things through and remembers the big picture and the details, too.

Louise - Louise brings an open-hearted quality to the board, always encouraging us to be kind and generous. When we get too focused on money, or regulations, she never fails to remind us that there are people with feelings involved in every story. She can be a bit theatrical. I'm sure none of us will ever forget the Chinese Landlord Opera!

Cameron - Cameron brings an artist's eye and a diplomat's turn of phrase to our proceedings. Ever helpful and always looking for the solution that lets everyone be a winner, he is a delight to work with.

David - David Soy brought a lifetime of experience and an interestingly different perspective to the board, and we were sorry that he was unable to stay on with the rest of us.

And that's your 2013/2014 GCF Board of Trustees

II) Trustee Report

GABRIOLA COMMONS FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

September 20, 2014

I'd like to take a moment to remind everyone of why we have trustees in the first place. I see us as the interface between the conventional world around us, where we can get mortgages and insurance, pay bills, and offer tax receipts to donors, and the wonderful, vital, self-organizing vat of possibilities that is the Commons. The world is not quite ready for us as we are, and so we have the Gabriola Commons Foundation, a registered B.C. Society, complete with a board of trustees and officers, an annual financial statement and an AGM. Our role is to hold the mortgage and handle the legal and financial responsibilities of the Commons. We also try not to take ourselves too seriously. I hope that one day we may not need trustees at all and we can all be free.

We started this term with five new trustees and five continuing trustees, which is a large turnover for one year, but it has been a seamless transition. David Soy stepped down early on and Alison Fitzgerald joined me in the co-Chair role. Deb Ferens continued as our Treasurer with Maya Ruggles as her assistant. Rebecca Furnell carried on as Secretary but handed that job off to Louise Amuir two months ago, except for offering to take the AGM minutes. It has all gone well and with a smaller turnover this year, I expect another pleasant year.

This is the second year in which we have divided our time between trustee business and fundraising. The fundraising piece hasn't gone entirely as we had planned, but it's not off the rails, either. By now, we had intended to have a major fundraising effort underway with the objective of paying off the mortgage in three years. We first wanted to create a case statement, laying out the reasons for the campaign and making a convincing case for support. We took our final version out to select individuals for feedback. The feedback we received convinced us that too many people are unclear about who we are, what we do, and why they should support us. We realized that we needed to focus more on making the Commons a fun and worthwhile place to be and on getting the word out about us. In the spirit of Ken Capon, in the last two months we have been setting up fundraising tables at the village, the farmers market and at the Fall Fair. These efforts have yielded fruit in the form of more monthly donors and more people knowing about us. We've also achieved several smaller goals. We took care of our monthly donors by writing thank-you cards. We launched a holiday donation appeal last Christmas, and we're planning a legacy giving workshop in November. The major fundraising campaign will have to wait for the new board.

Besides fundraising, we have had several interesting issues to deal with:

1. We have changed our relationship with PHC, reducing their rent while giving us access to their dining room and kitchen. We've also had several board-to-board discussions which are building the spirit of cooperation we all value.

2. We have been maneuvering carefully through the murky waters of smart meters on the Commons. We felt it was a community decision rather than a trustee decision and so we took a lot of time to try and hear all the voices in the debate. As a result, we are keeping our analog meters for now and paying the additional cost on our hydro bill each month.
3. We did a lot of work on the "Roxy at the Commons" idea, mostly in the area of getting clarification of the legalities of using the goat barn that way. There were issues of people using the building to make money, and there were issues of allowable square footage for different uses. In the end, we concluded that there were no regulatory blocks to the project going ahead.
4. We worked on the legal and financial aspects of the Community Kitchen.
5. We created new policy on AGM planning and follow-up.
6. We almost finished the new Commons Handbook, which will replace the old Trustee Handbook.
7. We discussed our membership policy.
8. We took care of our insurance.
9. We had a tax-receipting work bee.
10. We worried about the septic system.
11. We were excited to see the progress on the GabEnergy solar project.
12. We were pleased that the Commons adopted consensus decision making for all deliberations on the Commons except for the AGM and any other special General Meetings.
13. In the past year the Covenant Team (which is a subgroup of the trustees) concentrated on the following:
 - With the financial support of the Environmental Resolution Defense Fund and the services of lawyer Bill Pope we explored the best ways to create a "community commons" covenant. While working with Bill some emergent concepts were identified for further research, such as the Global Commons Trust and Commons Property Rights. An application to the UVIC Environmental Law Clinic was submitted to enlist the services of a law student to assist with the research.
 - Work continued on preparing the baseline report and the stewardship plan.
 - The Draft Covenant can be viewed on the Commons website.

The Commons exist because of the generosity of the people of Gabriola, both in hours and in dollars given. We would like to recognize all of our donors, large and small. Our monthly donors and our usual worker bees are truly our lifeblood. Without them there would be no Commons for the major donors to give to. That said, we would like to acknowledge the receipt of another amazing anonymous gift this year, \$49,000. Of that, \$40,000 was put to the mortgage as per the donors request, and the rest was set aside for projects. We would also like to acknowledge the incredible gifts of time given by Patrick and Judith Roux to the creation of the community kitchen. Both kinds of contributions have given our community a mighty helping hand. Thank you.

It's been fun being a trustee. I have one more year to go. I think we've all enjoyed the time, and I think we all look forward to our time ending. No one here seems to want to cling to non-power. For any of you who haven't had the chance, I encourage you to

consider taking a turn as a trustee. We do learn a lot about the details of the place, and I think we perform a valuable service.

On behalf of all my fellow trustees, thank you for entrusting us with this role.

Robbie Huston
For the 2013-2014 GCF Board of Trustees

III) Treasurer's Report

GABRIOLA COMMONS FOUNDATION

TREASURER'S REPORT- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Sept 20, 2014

The financial statements for the year-ended March 31st 2014 have been uploaded to the website and are available for viewing. The bookkeeping was found to be in order and no issues were raised by the external accountant, K.D.Beausoleil & Company Inc. (new accountant firm who bought Judy McPhee business on Gabriola).

This is the second year in a row that the biggest financial story of the year has been a significant paying down of the mortgage thanks to two large anonymous donations totalling \$61,337.03 (one donation was for \$21,337.03 from our friend Yetta Lees Strasdine, and one anonymous donation in the amount of \$49,389.31 of which \$40,000 was designated for the mortgage and \$9,389.31 for projects) Including regular bi-weekly payments the mortgage was reduced by \$91,450.73 standing at \$230,291.34 as of fiscal year end. Over a two-year fiscal period, the mortgage has been reduced by \$222,108.73.

In addition to the anonymous donors, on behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank all the regular monthly donors as well as people responding to our various campaigns. On an annual basis, monthly donors contribute \$29,329. almost sufficient to cover our biweekly mortgage payments amounting to \$31,815.15. (interest \$11701.45 & principal \$20,113.70) Well done!

As a result of the anonymous donation of the past two years just under \$60,000 was allocated to several projects approved by the Commons Coordinating Council including the Community Kitchen, the entry pathway, fixing the cob wall, boardwalk extension, the East-West Connector, and signage. Some of these projects are completed and some remain in progress. \$14986 still remains to be allocated to top priorities as identified by Council. The Community Kitchen was funded to a total of \$70,000 – \$25,000 from an Anonymous Donor, \$10,000 from Vancouver Foundation and matching funds of \$35,000 Western Economic Development Funds.

A big thank you to Village Food Markets for over \$3000 for community kitchen project raised through the Community Card program (over \$8000 has been contributed to the Commons over the past 3-4 years). More thanks for the \$335 from the Gabriola Recreation Society for the Boules Court and \$300 from Epcor Utility Helping Hands Grant.

All payables from the fiscal year have been paid and there are no outstanding debts other than the VanCity mortgage.

I want to personally thank financial assistant Maya Ruggles (Trustee) for her support and work during this year. And much appreciation to the Trustees for their probing, insightful, and sometimes funny, questions that kept me on my best financial behaviour all year.

Respectfully submitted:
Deborah Ferens
Treasurer.

IV) Income statement

Gabriola Commons Foundation			
Income Statement 04/01/2013 to 03/31/2014			
REVENUE			
Revenue			
Donations - Personal		1,809.25	
Donations - mortgage paydown		61,337.03	
Donations - CAFT Friends Of Commons		28,096.00	
Donations - TLC		800.00	
Donations - Corporate		77.44	
Donations - Charities		12,800.86	
Fundraising Events		3,093.00	
Grants		35,635.00	
Rent - Monthly		15,600.00	
Rent - Casual		2,805.03	
Farm Management Team		110.30	
North Garden (Plotters)		260.00	
South Garden		1,205.00	
Farm Gate Stand Sales		207.25	
Namaste Garden		540.00	
Fall Fair		877.40	
Sales		490.00	
Special Events		2,231.66	
Total		167,975.22	
Other Revenue			
Interest Revenue		664.38	
Total Other Revenue		664.38	
TOTAL REVENUE		168,639.60	

EXPENSE			
General Expenses			
Accounting & Legal		2,000.00	
Advertising & Promotions		303.50	
Community Kitchen Expenses		76.19	
Courier & Postage		173.08	
Communications		59.14	
Events-Spring Fair	160.31		
Events-Fall Fair	574.06		
Events-Craft Fair	153.75		
Total - Events		888.12	
Amortization Expense		20,401.00	
Dues and Fees		580.00	
FMT - expenses	711.84		
North Garden	88.76		
South Garden	1,006.03		
Namaste Farm	1,474.59		
Total Farm Management Team		3,281.22	
Insurance		4,907.00	
Interest & Bank Charges		492.16	
Interest - Loan & Mortgage		11,701.45	
Internet & telephone		1,277.92	
Office Supplies		137.35	
Project - Boules Court	310.26		
Project Total		310.26	
PMT		1,512.42	
Special Events		995.40	
Supplies		140.69	
TAGS		1,987.88	
Utilities		2,500.52	
GST/HST non-rebate		1,813.31	
Goodwill		3,900.00	
Total General & Admin. Expenses		59,438.61	
TOTAL EXPENSE		59,438.61	
NET INCOME		109,200.99	
Generated On: 09/18/2014			

V) Balance sheet

Gabriola Commons Foundation		
Balance Sheet As at 03/31/2014		
ASSET		
Current Assets		
CCCU Shares Account	5.66	
Vancity Shares	5.79	
VanCity-Community Service Acct	335.23	
CCCU Chequing Account	-6,850.14	
CCCU High Interest Savings	42,113.41	
CCCU Term Deposit	8,283.44	
Total Cash		43,893.39
Gst Receivable		1,813.31
A/R - PHC		-907.00
A/R TLC		800.00
A/R Grant		22,134.00
Prepaid Expenses		2,182.08
Total Current Assets		69,915.78
Capital Assets		
Office Furniture & Equipment	72,671.72	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	-47,954.55	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		24,717.17
Building - Woodworking shop	30,000.00	
Accum.Amort -Woodworking Shop	-2,352.00	
Building-Goat Barn	35,913.43	
Accum.Amort-Goat Barn	-2,654.27	
Building - House	204,691.53	
Accum. Amort. -Building	-30,953.07	
Building-Community Kitchen	119,406.78	
Acc Amort - Kitchen	-6,579.91	
Building-Sustainability Centre	33,197.24	
Accum Amort - Sustainability	-5,328.02	
Net - Building		375,341.71
Land		384,000.00
Total Capital Assets		784,058.88

TOTAL ASSET		853,974.66	
LIABILITY			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued interest payable		367.60	
Accounts payable		159.38	
Accrued Liabilities		2,000.00	
Total Current Liabilities		2,526.98	
Long Term Liabilities			
Mortgage Payable		230,291.34	
Current portion of long-term debt		24,200.00	
Less: Current Portion of long-term		-24,200.00	
Total Long Term Liabilities		230,291.34	
TOTAL LIABILITY		232,818.32	
EQUITY			
Share Capital			
Invested in Capital Assets		309,167.54	
Restricted for Sustainability Ctr.		6,571.31	
Restricted for Communications		665.26	
Restricted for North Garden		1,091.23	
Restricted for PMT		7,453.85	
Restricted for South Garden		2,997.19	
Restricted for Namaste Farms		755.41	
Restricted for Green Bike		441.09	
Restricted for Fall Fair		2,962.68	
Restricted for FMT		314.21	
Restricted for TAGS		4,893.21	
Restricted for Community Kitchen		3,420.40	
Restricted for LOT		37.00	
Interfund Transfer		-99,569.36	
Total Share Capital		241,201.02	
Net Assets			
Surplus - Previous Year		270,754.33	
Current Surplus		109,200.99	
Total Net Assets		379,955.32	

TOTAL EQUITY		621,156.34	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		853,974.66	
Generated On: 09/18/2014			

VI) Team Report

Team Reports: Where Are We Now?

Compiled by Jinny Hayes

September 20, 2014 for delivery at Gabriola Commons AGM

The Trustees decided to compile teams' accomplishments since the last AGM into one short report. This is a brief overview; know that **much** more is happening on our Commons. This is, however, a wonderful reflection of the myriad of Commons activities for agriculture, the environment/ecology, and the social/cultural contributions to the Commons and to the Gabriola Community.

Communications

This team has not been active as a group or even an individual this year, and has been sorely missed. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to making the Communiqué happen regularly and written articles, announcements, and ads for the local papers. We will have an active COM in the coming year.

Community Kitchen

Several years of planning, grant writing and long hours of largely volunteer work have turned the former cheese factory into an impressive facility intended to serve community chefs, groups, families, educators under the management of a Kitchen Stewards Team. Do go by and see the transformation!

Note: Funding is currently being sought for a new septic system, required by Island Health for final approval.

Conflict Prevention and Resolution

This new team generated a mandate this year, and been focusing on the interpersonal health of our team (i.e., role modeling the talking through of any conflicts) and learning to understand how conflict happens and what can help to resolve it. So any Commons team or individual that is experiencing dispute and are feeling stuck, this group's members are open to listening, offering different perspectives and walking with you through to resolution action.

Events Team

Spearheaded four events this year - Christmas Craft Fair, Spring Fair, Garage Sale and just THE BEST FALL FAIR EVER! Total funds raised for all of the events was approximately ~ \$4,000. The Fall Fair showcased the best that the

Commons has to offer - fun, fellowship, and a glimpse of the magic created when a community comes together.

Farm Management Team

This team and many Saturday morning volunteers have been active all year long planting, pruning, weeding, watering and harvesting. Harvests from the perennial plantings (apples, blueberries, and raspberries as well as asparagus, rhubarb and artichoke are showing promise of future abundance. North, South and Namaste allotment gardens are to be seen - a mosaic of lush green and brilliant colours and produce!

Grant Writing

A quiet year for applications, but we were finally (Sept. 8) allowed to announce a grant from Western Economic Development (WED) for \$35,000, which financed the bulk of the kitchen over the last year. The money is spent but the formal announcement has only recently been made. The team is in the process of applying to the Nanaimo Community Foundation for a grant to put in the septic system for the new kitchen; a possible January announcement.

Infrastructure

Working with the local non-profit GabEnergy, the Infrastructure Team is planning a 10 kilowatt solar panel demonstration project, with 50% of the funding approved by Bullfrog Power and a matching grant in progress under the Federal Gas Tax fund (administered by the Regional District of Nanaimo).

Labyrinth

Many peaceful individual walks and some special events have happened in our labyrinth this year. One appreciative person posted this to FaceBook: "Full Moon. Frogs. Ducks. Wild Roses. More... Very different in night time, day time.... Dragonflies... Bees... Birds... Daisies... So happy to live in an abundantly beautiful place...right here...on Gabriola Island. Thank you Thank you Thank YOU!!"

Learning Opportunities

Has been meeting with an ad-hoc group including people from the original Crash Course Academy, the Arts Council, and Sustainable Gabriola. We plan a public meeting to discuss possibilities for cooperation among those interested in community learning in October.

Long Range Planning

This Team hosted two successful workshops; the first to discuss priorities, the second to begin the process of gauging the order of magnitude (in human effort and dollars) of various projects identified as priorities. The next phase of the plan will be presented to Council later this fall.

Property Management

Has been busy maintaining the property. Highlights of this year include Trimming The Hedge, work on the water system, lots of ongoing work around the property and a huge amount of work on the community kitchen. Thanks to

the Work-Bee-ers!

Share the Commons

In December 2013 we met with SB to discuss his proposal for a revival of the Roxy Theatre in the Goat Barn at the Commons and subsequently organized a multi-team meeting process to discuss the proposal. After this, S was encouraged to take the lead with this idea.

Also in December, the team followed up with Ride Free Gabriola Society to discuss their application to have a skateboard park at the Commons. After much deliberation and research into the Commons land use bylaws, we concluded that the park is not possible on the Commons, and the team helped find another venue.

In February the team organized a multi-group meeting to meet with 2 Saturna residents interested in learning about how the Commons is organized. One outcome is a document that summarizes what we do/do not do well at the Commons.

Also in February, an application came in for a Pottery Group at the Commons, a proposal which seems to be going ahead at a slow but steady pace. In early spring STC reviewed an application to host Starhawk at the Commons in May, an event which proved to be very successful.

Mary Wilson and Judith Roux recently produced a document entitled *Projects at the Commons*, approved by the team to be added to the land use application form. This will help us follow up on applications for land/building use at the Commons so that projects and ideas have good guidance.

Trails and Green Spaces

Trails:

Working to have Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) put our clearest trails onto their Gabriola Trails Map. In addition, we plan to develop a circle trail to encourage GaLTT members and others to enjoy walking through various forest areas on the Commons.

Daphne:

In July and August, under the able leadership of Mary Wilson, volunteers again took groups of campers from Camp Miriam to different areas on the Commons to pull *Daphne laureola*. Some of the larger groups of campers spread out across wide swaths of the area – and discovered previously unknown *Daphne*-filled spaces.