

Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society - AGM

Monday March 6th 2023 – Agi Hall

Present: Steve Earle, Talyn Martin, Shaun Woods, Sibyl Frei, Mary Lee Burns, K. Louise Vincent, Carol Hemrich, Deb Ferens, Susan Yates, Nancy Heatherington-Peirce, John Peirce, Chloë Straw, Louise Rebelle, Jean Pierre van Praet, Ewout van Dishoek, Graham Bradley, Jay Baker-French, Jenni Gehlbach, Burt Fidler, Erin Udal, Online: Emily Carrington

Facilitator: Sibyl Frei **Minutes:** Talyn Martin

Call to order: 7:05pm

Approval of agenda

Approved by consensus.

Territorial acknowledgment

Sibyl acknowledges that we are still learning; that her heritage is from immigrant settler parents; that we are grateful to be on the traditional territory of the SFN and other First Nations who have lived here and stewarded the land here since time immemorial.

2022 AGM minutes

Approved by consensus.

Bylaws are available on website.

2022 financial statements

Answers to questions: Note that empty rows are required by CRA and may be used at a later date; Canada Helps charges (2.4-3.6%) to process donations, which is an inexpensive way to administer donations; they also facilitate anonymous donations, etc.

Accepted by consensus.

Agenda amendment – Round of introductions

No appointment of auditor

Accepted by consensus that we will continue to produce unaudited financial statements until such time that we have more assets (or real property), or if we want to apply for funding from an organization that requires an audit.

New website launch

The new GILSS website (<https://gabriolaislandlss.ca/>), created by Colleen McCarthy, was displayed on the screen. There was widespread approval of the new look and content.

Land selection policies discussion – facilitated by Shaun and Steve

People at the meeting were divided into four groups and asked to discuss parts of a draft GILSS Board policy governing the purchase of land. Afterward, the groups reported on their suggested changes to the draft policy.

NEXT STEPS – Policy to go back to committee for revision and then back to board for approval. Other priorities for the committee will be policies on land donations and stewardship.

Board to make decisions regarding land purchases

Agreed by consensus because the Board will have been gathering information, weighing options and doing due diligence over a considerable period of time so they are in the best position to make a consensus decision about land purchase.

Questions from members/community

Erin: Recommends that members be asked to help set priorities for the next year at the AGMs.

Chloe: Q re SFN engagement. **A:** We are looking at protocol; templates started.

Louise: general comment: Lots of amazing work done already, thanks!

Elections

Board:

- Sibyl Frei and Shaun Woods are continuing their terms as directors at large.
- Steve Earle and K. Louise offered to stand for director at large positions. Tim Leadem has also offered to stand but is not present; K. Louise confirmed that he is interested. Consensus to elect/acclaim Steve, K. Louise and Tim for 2-year terms.
- Talyn Martin staying on to represent Agi Co-op for now.
- Carol Hemrich staying on to represent Gabriola Housing Society.
- Mary Lee Burns staying on to represent PHC.
- John Peirce coming on to represent Sustainable Gabriola; Deb Ferens has stepped down.
- Commons needs to appoint a new rep.

New organizational board member:

Consensus to ratify the board's recommendation that the Gabriola Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) as the 6th organizational member on the board. Chloë Straw asked whether the role could be shared by two people and whether child care funding might be provided. To be discussed by the board.

Thank yous

- Gabriola Agricultural Co-op for the use of the hall for meetings and AGM.

- Dorothy Engst & family for Fairy Goddess calendar donation.
- Outgoing board member: Deb Ferens who joined the board at our first AGM in 2021.
- Acknowledge founding members Laura-Jean Kelly and Megan Adam, and others who have served on the GILSS board in last two years: Tobi Elliott, Yarrow Koontz, Kristina Baerg, Manfred Templemayr, Alan Posthuma and Ewout van Dishoek.
- Thank everyone for being here today.

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm