

Gabriola Streamkeepers (GSK) Minutes and Notices of Meetings 2012

Note that in these early meetings, minutes were not always taken, and minutes when taken, were not formally adopted.

Meeting notices have been included when they include meeting agendas not otherwise available.

November 22, 2012: Meeting notice and minutes

We have a meeting this Thursday November 22nd, 7 pm, at the Women's Institute. I promise to keep the meeting to an hour. If you have any agenda items you would like to include please let me know. To date we will be discussing progress in our three sub-committees - contacting landowners, fundraising/training, and school outreach. We will also address the action items from the last meeting and I would also like to add a project to erect signs identifying streams on the side of the roads. ◇

Minutes

We had a great meeting this past Thursday with 11 Streamkeepers in attendance, one trustee - Gisele, and a reporter from the Flying Shingle - Alina Cerminara. Here's a brief summary of what was discussed.

1. Mandate, Objectives and Structure

- We hit the ground running when we started the Gabriola Streamkeepers last summer and we haven't taken the time yet to set our mandate, objectives and organizational structure.
- The next meeting (January 24) will be dedicated to crafting our mandate and objectives and discussing our structure.
- Deb would like us to consider climate change when drafting our mandate and objectives.

Action Item (Carrie): Send examples of mandates and objectives from other streamkeepers groups to our members prior to the next meeting (January 24) to use as templates for our discussion.

2. Landowner Outreach

- The landowner outreach committee (Liz, Adrienne, and Melanie) met since the last meeting to discuss how best to engage property owners adjacent to streams.
- The Gabriola Streamkeepers had requested the help of the Islands Trust to identify the landowners but the Islands Trust were unable to help due to privacy concerns and staff resources. They have offered to send letters out to the landowners on our behalf.
- The committee proposed not taking the Islands Trust up on their generous offer but instead contact the landowners ourselves.
- Melanie was able to access the mailing addresses for all the landowners using the RDN internet mapping tool.
- The suggested strategy is to first contact the landowners by mail and then follow-up with a phone call.
- Christy offered to share her experience working with Streamkeepers groups on contacting landowners. No need to reinvent the wheel. Thanks Christy!
- Christy also had some great ideas to recognize landowners that become stewards of their stream such as a stewardship pledge and stewardship sign for their lawn.

- The committee will wait until our mandate is set prior to sending out letters to landowners.

3. Fundraising

- The fundraising committee (Chris, Deb, and Jethro) is thrilled to announce that David Clough has secured \$1,100 from the RDN to pay for a streamkeepers course on Gabriola.
- The committee has also identified other sources of funding and marked down their application deadlines so we can access funds for equipment, public information events, and contacting landowners.
- Chris has drafted a prototype letter for fundraising requests.
- Christy suggested the Pacific Salmon Foundation as another funding source.
- Christy has an old Dissolved Oxygen meter that she will donate to the streamkeepers but it will need to be refurbished.
- The fundraising committee will wait until after our mandate and objectives are set prior to applying for any funds.

4. School Outreach

- Carrie, Kees, and Melanie will be making a presentation to Ms. Peacock's 7th grade class on December 7th on the importance of healthy stream for salmons and the role of stream keepers.
- Christy has volunteered to join the school outreach group.
- Another teacher at the school, Glen Murphy Grade 5/6, has contacted the streamkeepers to bring us in to do a presentation to his class. The outreach committee will contact Mr. Murphy and discuss a date and format.

Action Item (Carrie): Contact Mr. Murphy to organize a class presentation on Streamkeeping.

Action Item (Melanie): Print 30 copies of the Streamkeepers Map for Mr. Peacock's students.

Action Item (Christy): Get more copies of the streamkeepers pamphlet.

5. Insurance

- Melanie contacted the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation about membership and insurance - insurance costs \$170.00 per year for 34 members and \$5 for every additional member. The Gabriola Streamkeepers have to become a society to access this insurance.
- Melanie asked if the Gabriola Streamkeepers could be covered by GaLTT's insurance. GaLTT will look into it.

6. Contact with Other Streamkeepers

- The importance of contacting other streamkeepers groups to share knowledge and help out was discussed.
- Melanie has made contact with the Nile Creek Enhancement Society (<http://www.nilecreek.org>)

- Adrienne made contact with the Harbour City Stewards.
- Christy suggested the Nanoose Bay Streamkeepers (<http://nanoosestreamkeepers.blogspot.ca>)
- The group discussed making contact with more local streamkeepers to learn from their experience.

7. Streamkeepers Course

- Jethro will talk to David Clough and try to schedule the course for a weekend near the beginning of February.

8. Mapping

- The Gabriola Streamkeepers produced a map of the larger streams on Gabriola based on Nick Doe's report (see <http://www.nickdoe.ca/pdfs/Webp661.pdf>).
- The map was distributed at the Farmer's Market this summer and to people attending the Streamkeepers meetings.
- The map is not accurate - the streams locations were done by eye and not using GPS.
- Trustee Rudisher said the map may confuse landowners during the promotion of the Development Permit Areas (DPAs) under the Riparian Areas Regulation on the island because the Streamkeepers map contains streams not covered by DPAs.

9. Riparian Areas Regulation

- While the Gabriola Streamkeepers support government regulations aimed at protection streams, it will be important that the community understand that we are not directly involved in implementing the RAR.
- The Gabriola Streamkeepers undertake initiatives to build community understanding of the importance of our streams, build local stewards for our streams, and enhancing the health of our streams.
- The RAR is a top-down regulatory approach to achieving the goal of protecting streams, the streamkeepers are a grassroots community-based approach to not only protecting streams but restoring them.
- The Islands Trust are hosting a community information meeting on the RAR on January 17 - more details to come. I encourage everyone to attend as members of the public to learn more about their plans.

10. Salmonid Enhancement Program Community Workshop Bowen Island May 17-19, 2013

- The Pacific Streamkeepers Federation and DFO are organizing a workshop as part of the Salmonid Enhancement Program on Bowen Island. This is a bi-annual event that I'm told shouldn't be missed. More information can be found at <http://workshop.pskf.ca>
- Jethro and I will be attending. If anyone would like to join us, please let me know by December 15 and if we have enough people we can look into renting a house for the weekend.

- The Workshop is highly subsidized by both organizing just costing \$35 for registration which includes most meals.

The next meeting will be Thursday January 24 at 7pm at the Women's Institute. ◇

October 18, 2012: Meeting notice

Our next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday October 18 at 7 pm at the Women's Institute. We will be following up on existing projects such as outreach to the school, contacting homeowners adjacent to streams and fundraising. If you have any agenda items you would like discussed please send them to me before Wednesday. ◇

We have a streamkeepers meeting tonight at 7pm at the Women's Institute. Here is the agenda:

Old Business:

1. Identifying Property Owners Adjacent to Priority Streams (Adrienne, Melanie)
2. Clean-up of Mallett Creek (Jethro et al.)
3. Newspaper Articles (Jethro)
4. Work with Grade 7 Class at GES (Carrie)
5. Fundraising (Chris, Melanie)
6. Website (Melanie)

New Business:

1. October 28, 2-5pm, "Group of 12" exhibit on Sandwell Marsh at the Gabriola Professional Centre (Liz).

Adjourned by 8pm. ◇

September 20, 2012: Meeting notice

Our next meeting is this Thursday, September 20th, at 7 pm at the Women's Institute. We will be discussing upcoming training opportunities, working with the school, special projects, and we will start planning our first field season. ◇

August 23, 2012: Meeting notice

Our next meeting is Thursday August 23 at 7pm at the Agricultural Hall. We would like to layout our priorities for the next year, which may include mapping streams (the Islands Trust already have a good start on this project), road signs, training, and community outreach and education opportunities. We can also discuss forming sub-committees to tackle some of these initiatives. We look forward to hearing your ideas.

We have created a Facebook page to facilitate communication; we invite you to join if you wish by searching Gabriola Streamkeepers. Also, please forward this on to anyone you think may be interested in joining. ◇

Streamkeepers meeting ~ Thursday Aug 23 7:00. AGI Hall.

We will be discussing mapping, data collection, signage, and awareness. ◇

July 26, 2012: Meeting notice

Gabriola Streamkeepers first meeting
Thursday, July 26 at 7pm
Agi Hall

Re-establishing salmon populations in Gabriola streams

The federal Fisheries and Oceans Canada Community Advisor, David Clough, will be at the meeting to discuss local streamkeeper activities, the basics of getting started with site assessments, habitat and enhancement opportunities, and getting funding. Our ultimate goal is to re-establish a migrating salmon population on Gabriola. It may sound lofty but there are amazing examples of other streamkeepers groups achieving that goal in small seasonal streams like ours. ◇