

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday January 8, 2019 at GAHC

Present: Laura Boulton, Rob Brockley, Tom Cameron, Jenni Gehlbach, , Chris Hills, Norm Harburn, Anne Landry, Nola Johnston, Kerry Marcus, Frank Shoemaker, Lou Skinner. **Regrets:** David Boehm, Peter Danenhowe, Rebecca Furnell.

Before the meeting Nola Johnston made a short presentation to interested members about using Google Drive to store GaLTT's documents.

1. Meeting called to order at 7.05pm by Landry, who acknowledged that we meet on unceded Coast Salish territory.
2. **AGENDA:** Adopted by consensus with the *in-camera* discussion moved from Item 9 to Item 6.5 as part of Harburn's report for ACTL committee.
3. **Year-end Financial Report for the AGM.** Maureen O'Rourke had previously circulated her most recent draft of the year-end Statement of our Financial Position. **DISCUSSION:** The need for simple presentation for our members at the AGM; the continued holding of too much money in our unrestricted funds—our money needs to be better put to work.

ACTION 1: Shoemaker to rework the presentation of our Financial Report to the members in time for circulation to finance committee by January 9 at 1pm, and then to the board for approval before the AGM.

ACTION 2: Gehlbach to put on the agenda for the first meeting of the new Board in February, a discussion about assigning our pool of funds according to our stated purposes.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Rob Brockley to immediately transfer \$5000 from our unrestricted fund to our land acquisition fund, with the transfer to be made effective December 2018. Carried.

4. **MINUTES** from December 2018:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston to accept the minutes for December 2018 board meeting as presented. Carried.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Received a Christmas card from ITC.
- Received a donation of \$1000 from a member, targeted for an accessible bridge over the stream in Elder Cedar where there are currently stepping stones.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

6.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE: Landry reported that she:

- Signed contract with Stan Leyenhorst of Universal Access Design to conduct an accessibility assessment of Gabriola Sands PP and review the GaLTT Accessibility Survey.
- Worked with Stan and the Accessibility Committee to finalize the survey
- Worked with Lou on the 2019 budget

- Sent out seven thank-you notes and emails to one-time donors. People were generous at year-end with over \$1,000 donated.

6.2 TREASURER—O'Rourke had previously circulated GaLTT's financial reports and Shoemaker circulated his notes on the new formats used for reporting

GaLTT's bank balances on December 31, 2018:

- Chequing “Community Partner Package” (0.01%): \$19,397
- Savings “Business High Interest Savings” (0.6%): \$3049
- Term Deposit \$125,000

(See Item 3 above re transferring \$5000 to the land acquisition fund effective December 2018)

Skinner passed a cheque for \$122.08 to Gehlbach for the annual software lease as decided at December meeting. She reported that other cheques written this month were: \$22.39 to R Young for dog waste bags; \$250 membership fee to LTABC; \$336 to Shorefast Signs for trail-sharing signage (received \$100 each from bike group and horse group to offset this cost); \$907.20 to Shoring Signfast Signs for new trail-licence signage; to Lou Skinner \$102.80 for gift card for Maureen O'Rourke and office supplies; \$192. To Arbutus Lumber for signposts; and \$66.18 to Ani Law Corp for title searches.

Skinner circulated her draft budget and briefly discussed the highlights: We forecast 2018 revenue of \$20,800 and received \$21,200. We had strong donations in December through Canada Helps and direct donations, as well as numerous people using our new membership format. We budgeted \$20,050 for 2018 expenses, and actual expenses were only around \$14,000. This was because our brochure and map printing did not occur in the calendar year and Land Trust Alliance Conference expenses were less than expected. Some of these expected expenses will carry forward into 2019.

MOTION: Proposed by Kerry Marcus, seconded by Nola Johnston to approve the budget as presented and amended. Carried.

6.3 MEMBERSHIP

- Furnell had forwarded her list of new and renewing membership applicants this month.

MOTION proposed by Rebecca Furnell, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach to accept as members the listed new and renewing applicants. Carried.

- Gehlbach reported that Furnell had emailed a letter to people who have not renewed their memberships in the last year inviting them to rejoin using our new on-line options if they found our paper-based process too cumbersome.

6.4a TRAILS AND PARKS MANAGEMENT. Brockley reported a very heavy schedule of work for him (and for Susan Brockley!) due to the recent storms:

- Sent request to Trail Stewards following wind storm requesting trail updates.
- Removed several fallen trees in Haven Woods.
- Removed fallen trees in Cox Community Park.
- Removed fallen trees from Decourcy beach access.
- Removed fallen trees from Descanso Bay Regional Park.
- Removed fallen trees from Petroglyph trail.
- Assessed fallen trees in Robinson Woods and Evans trail.

- Asked Jeff Rietkerk to assess risk of leaning trees in Elder Cedar Nature Reserve.
- Asked Jeff Rietkerk to remove fallen trees on Elder Cedar and Cresta Roca trails.
- Ordered and picked up new trail licence signs from Signfast.
- Purchased wooden posts for new signage.
- Began installation of new trail licence signs.
- Toured 707 Community Park (including donor lands) with RDN staff in preparation for trail re-signage project.
- Toured 707 Community Park (including donor lands) with GaLTT Board members and Gabriola Off-road Cycling Association members in preparation for trail re-signage project.
- Met with Peter Danenhower to develop draft 2019 Trail Operations budget.
- Assessed mudhole at NE corner of Elder Cedar and developed plan for remedial action.
- Work party on January 6 to trim trails in 707 Community Park.

DISCUSSION: recent talks and walks with RDN in the 707 park and donor lands indicate that completely detailed trail designations and signage are very unlikely to be completed in time for our hoped-for new map release in late spring. This means we will not have maps for sale at the market as current map stock is almost sold out. It will not be acceptable to reprint and sell potentially misleading maps that are incomplete in terms of the 707 park and adjacent Potlatch donor land additions.

ACTION: Map Committee to meet soon to discuss production of a free handout interim map of approved trails in 707 and the newly acquired donor lands. Printing the complete, new trail map edition to be delayed until all approvals are in place. See Item 6.6.

6.4b INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL: No report.

6.4c BIG TREE REGISTRY: No report.

6.4d. POSAC Brockley has been confirmed as a member of POSAC but will be away for the next meeting, which will be February 4.

6.5. ACQUISITIONS, COVENANTS, AND TRAIL LICENCES: Harburn reported that the committee has done eight title searches on properties with desirable routes for trails. He moved that the meeting move *in camera* to discuss whether and how to approach the various owners.

ACTION: Harburn and Gehlbach to meet with Derek Kilburn and the owner of one of the discussed properties to investigate the possibility of getting a trail licence through her land, which offers a good connection route for children into the village.

6.6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Marcus reported that

- she and Lou met for a **budget discussion**.
- the **Trails Network** Chamber of Commerce small group met on January 3. Yield signage is printed, and half have been given to Gabriola Off-road Cycle Association lead Derrill Shuttlesworth, to begin posting at entrances to Crown Land trails. A newspaper piece is planned by Julie Sperber for the last week of January about shared trail usage

- **AGM Volunteer Community Engagement Awards** were proposed by Peter. He has tabulated the results and nominated the top three market table workers – thanks Peter.
- **New map project:** most of December’s work focussed on new map details. Nola and Kerry assessed the status of the list of changes. Judy Preston is unable to do the layout due to a computer crash and lost files. Nola has generously agreed to work on this. They are still waiting to hear back from Geraldine Manson about Snunéymuxw names. A message was sent to our members asking for needed changes, which are coming in. All edits were to go in a single package to Cameron Murray by the end of February, but this date will now be delayed (TBA).
- **SFU-GES place-based education:** Gehlbach reported that she met with the project group last month to discuss how the project (not yet funded) could be tied in with the Ladysmith Nanaimo School District’s Syeyutsus (“walk together”) project and also with the existing education programs of the Fisheries and Oceans people, and groups like local Streamkeepers and GaLTT’s invasive plant controllers.

6.7 STREAMKEEPERS: Chris Hills reported that there might be changes coming to how Streamkeepers operates. Through 2018 they struggled to meet consistently, some of their core members being extremely busy with work, family, etc. They are still able to organize for events and projects but at this stage it might make more sense to move towards less frequent meetings. He will know more after their meeting January 16.

6.8 COMMUNICATIONS: Gehlbach reported that the Committee has:

- Investigated the use of Google Drive for storing GaLTT documents and records
- Begun preparing to produce a newsletter in time for the AGM
- Wrote and distributed Board meeting minutes and agenda.
- Updated the website as required, including uploading all Board meeting minutes for 2018, accessible from the Board page.
- Posted re trails and trail-work as required to Facebook and Instagram
- Confirmed Golf Course Clubhouse AGM location and inquired about their technical setup for presentations.
- Emailed members about needed trail-map changes.
- Emailed volunteers about trail work parties and Holiday schedule.

7.0 OLD BUSINESS:

7.1. ACCESSIBILITY: Harburn reported that he, Danenhower, and Laurie Webster met with Stan Leyenhorst at Twin Beaches recently to assess the accessibility conditions, and Heather Steere and Monica Valdes Garcia from Parks BC came too. Leyenhorst now has the accessibility contract for all BC Parks, so it is good that we already have his attention. Leyenhorst and the others arrived in his very slick digitally controlled van with ramps to accommodate his wheelchair (he is quadriplegic), but he was unable to get into the park near the gate because the ground was too swampy after the recent rains.

Survey: Dyan Dunsmoor Farley has read our survey and will meet soon with Johnston to suggest some changes to its overall organization. She will put it on her business’s Survey

Monkey account. Lisa Webster Gibson may have editing suggestions also.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS:

8.1 AGM Planning

i. **Director nominations:** Harburn is stepping down but all other current Directors are willing to remain on the Board, so we have room for two new directors.

ACTION 1: Brockley to contact Derrill and ask whether the off-road cyclists have a possible nominee.

ACTION 2: Landry to contact three other suggested people to see if they are interested in standing.

ii. **Speaker accommodation and dinner:** Bookings will be needed at Roberts if we are to have dinner before the meeting.

ACTION 3: Gehlbach to contact Richard Hebda to finalize plans for his visit and presentation, checking what technical requirements he has, and also accommodation and dinner plans, etc.

iii **Facility:** Gehlbach reported that the Golf Club has a 55" TV that takes a computer plug-in for presentations, and a microphone in another part of the room.

ACTION 4: Marcus to check the whereabouts of our projector screen, and to check with Charlie Cheffins and elsewhere about technical equipment, such as microphones and projectors.

iv. **GaLTT AGM committee reports:**

ACTION 5: Committee heads to give their reports to Nola by Jan 22 for inclusion in the slideshow.

v. **Snunéymuxw elder to open the proceedings:**

ACTION 6: Landry to check with April Vannini about who to invite, and making arrangements, etc.

vi. **Membership checking, gift basket, electronic and paper data for the meeting:**

ACTION 7: Harburn and Cameron to organize the membership table at the door, as well as a large donation jar and float.

ACTION 8: Furnell to supply the most recent membership list.

ACTION 9: Shoemaker to check his basket inventory to see if he has a suitable one to donate for the door-prize. All other board members to donate an item to put in it.

ACTION 10: Gehlbach to email members about the AGM attaching copies of the agenda, last year's minutes, and Financial Statements. To print only a few copies for use at the meeting, but to print plenty of copies of the Nominations for Director sheet for distribution at the meeting.

8.2 Commons Covenant: The committee meeting to discuss the commons covenant with John Peirce will be at GAHC on January 22 at 7pm.

9. Motion to adjourn proposed by Harburn at 9.15. Carried.

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday March 12, 2019 at GAHC

NOTE: There was no February board meeting or AGM due to heavy snowfall. (The AGM was rescheduled to March.)

Present: Laura Boulton, Rob Brockley, Tom Cameron, Peter Danenhower, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Chris Hills, Anne Landry, Nola Johnston, Frank Shoemaker.

Regrets: David Boehm, Rebecca Furnell, Kerry Marcus, Derrill Shuttleworth, Lou Skinner.

1. Meeting called to order at 7pm by Landry, who acknowledged that we meet on unceded Coast Salish territory.
2. **AGENDA:** Adopted by consensus with corrected numbering and the addition of two items under New Business:
Item 9.1 Google docs and G-Suite; **Item 9.2** Recommended purchase of a GPS device—both by Johnston.
3. **Welcome to new board members and election of officers:** Landry welcomed Gunn and Shuttleworth to the board (Shuttleworth is currently travelling abroad). Landry is stepping down as President. She presented the suggested slate of new officers:
President: Rob Brockley
Vice President: Kerry Marcus
Treasurer: Lou Skinner
Secretary: Jenni Gehlbach
MOTION: Proposed by Frank Shoemaker, seconded by Peter Danenhower that the slate presented be elected as the officers of GaLTT for 2019. Carried.
Brockley took over as chair of the meeting thanking Landry for her strong leadership over the last two years.
4. **Committee chairs and membership:**
 - The elected officers will serve on Executive committee with Brockley as Chair and Landry will remain on it as Past President.
 - Nola Johnston will assume the chair of ACTL committee (from Norm Harburn).
 - Danenhower agreed to take over the chair of the Trail Operations committee (from Brockley), and Brockley noted that ACTL committee should include the leader of the Trail Operations Committee.
 - Other continuing board members will remain on the committees of their previous choices. Gunn mentioned that at this point the Community Engagement Committee looked like the best fit for her skills and background.
5. **MINUTES** from January 2019. NOTE: the February board meeting was cancelled due to snow.
MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Anne Landry to accept the minutes for January 2019 board meeting as presented. Carried.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE: none to report**

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE: Landry reported that the rescheduled AGM went very well with 33 members present despite having no speaker. The annual report for 2018 was well received, and GaLTT's Accessibility Survey was launched at the meeting. In addition, since the last meeting she has

- Worked with the Accessibility Committee on the Survey productions and promotion.
- Reviewed and commented on Stan Leyenhorst's draft report Facility Assessment and Recommendations for Gabriola Sands Provincial Park. The report is now final and will help us in determining next steps towards improved accessibility at the park.
- Submitted an invoice to BC Parks for our expenses related to the Park Enhancement Fund (PEF) grant for the Accessibility contract.
- Corresponded and talked with Snunéymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson about coming to open the AGM. She could not attend but send a warm welcome that was read at the AGM.
- Worked with the Executive on decisions around AGM postponement and rescheduling and the cancellation of the February board meeting. The snow prevailed those days.
- Delivered wine and a card to Richard Hebda, our planned AGM speaker for his efforts in getting to Gabriola for the postponed meeting. We hope to reschedule his talk later this year.
- Met with the Finance Committee about financial coding and investments.
- Sent a card to Sally Robinson of Robinson Woods, who has been unwell.
- Met with Nuala Murphy at Islands Trust Conservancy on January 17 to discuss the long-range possibility of an accessible trail to the big cedar in Elder Cedar Nature Reserve. She was open to the idea because the management plan discusses future accessibility, but it would need to go to the ITC board, then to GaLTT and NALT (the covenant holders) because variances would be needed.
- Spoke to IT planner Ian Cox asking for referral to comment (as it goes forward) on the Local Trust Committee's initiative to develop an Ecological Protection Zone for Gabriola. "Research and develop a new Ecological Protection Zone as part of the Parks (P) OCP designation. Update zoning of Coats Marsh and Burren's Acres Nature Reserve properties." They hope to have the new zone adopted by the fall.
- Attended a Garry Oak Restoration workshop in Duncan on March 10, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy of Canada at the Cowichan Garry Oak Nature Reserve—a 50-acre property with lots of mature broom initially. Now cleared.
- Has accepted an invitation with Brockley to make a presentation at the April 24 AGM of the Friends of the French Creek Conservation Society, talking about GaLTT's work, especially around trails and trail licences.

Landry noted also some island activity linked to our work:

- The **Local Trust Committee** is making a minor change to the Cycling Route Plan for Gabriola which will include the new Spruce Road connector, ensuring cycling use will be considered when the road is constructed.
- The **Gabriola Island Shore Keepers Association (GISKA)** has determined their mandate: *to protect and restore the integrity and resilience of the Gabriola Area Islands' intertidal areas and associated marine ecosystems.*

7.2 TREASURER—Skinner had previously circulated her report

- **GaLTT's total cash balance** on February 28, 2019 was \$147,744.48. GaLTT has invested \$100,000 and \$25,000 in two separate 1-year redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificates at interest rate 2.25% at Coastal Community Credit Union. The capital can be withdrawn before one year by forfeiting half of the interest earned to date. The separate smaller one is so that \$25,000 can easily be withdrawn if needed quickly without jeopardizing the interest on the whole amount. This leaves approximately \$22,000 available for regular operations.

- **Cheques written** in January and February were: \$300 to AFCLT (annual membership); \$67.20 to Shoring Signfast Signs (trail signage); \$84.39 to Robert Brockley (trail volunteer gifts); \$88 to Gabriola Agricultural Assoc. (market table rental); \$281.78 to Gallery Press (AGM printing); \$1645.66 to Arbutus Building Supplies (trail work materials); \$312.48 to Gabriola Sounder (AGM ad.); \$4494.00 to Universal Access Design (BC Parks accessibility study); \$157.74 to Gabriola Sounder (AGM ad.)
- **2019 budget** will be distributed shortly, following adjustments to our accounts.

7.3 MEMBERSHIP

Furnell had forwarded her list of new and renewing membership applicants this month. It was noted that many of the renewing members opted to use the digital process. DISCUSSION whether it was necessary to formally accept renewing members and monthly-donor members.

MOTION proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Tom Cameron to accept as members the listed new applicants. Carried.

ACTION: Cameron to work with Marcus to clarify whether renewing and monthly donor members need to be accepted periodically by the board.

7.4a TRAILS AND PARKS MANAGEMENT. Brockley and Danenhower reported:

- AGM work: Brockley tabulated volunteer hours for 2018 and purchased gifts for top volunteers. He also prepared Trail Operations presentation for AGM.
- Communicated with Haven Woods property owner regarding house construction and trail closures. Sent trail-closure notice to members and purchased “trail closure” signs.
- Reported fallen trees in Cox Community Park to RDN; in Drumbeg and Sandwell to Provincial Parks officials.
- Walked trails in **707 Community Park to document missing posts and proposed post locations and to search for possible new trail connections**, and created a map showing current, missing, and proposed post locations for 707 park and possible future trail connections.
- Met with GaLTT mapping sub-committee regarding 707 signage proposal and timeline and then met with RDN Parks Planner (Elaine McCulloch) and RDN Parks Operations Coordinator (Chris van Ossenbruggen) to discuss 707 signage proposal and timeline.
- They also discussed the issue of confusion and possible danger to the public if the posts are renumbered so that they are different from numbers shown on older maps. RDN suggested a map be placed at the entrances to the park, with an invitation to take a photo of it with cell-phones.
- Continued with installation of **new trail licence signage**. Ordered and installed “Dogs on Leash” signs on the new Murray Road trail (at the request of neighbours).
- Made on-site measurements, purchased materials, and cut lumber for **boardwalk construction at Elder Cedar Nature Reserve**. Communicated with Islands Trust Conservancy re Elder Cedar contract.
- Prepared and submitted 2018 Partnership Agreement Summary to BC Parks.
- Flagged proposed “**detour route**” for main trail in Haven Woods and gps’d with assistance of Johnston. Sent proposed detour route map to property owner for approval.
- **Work parties** on January 20 to build new trail from Murray Road to waterfront; February 3 to pull broom seedlings on Petroglygh Trail; February 17 cancelled due to snow; March 3 and 4 to transport materials and install boardwalks at Elder Cedar Nature Reserve.
- Cut six fallen trees off of the Cliff trail loop with a volunteer.

BOARD DISCUSSION: on the dangers and insurance issues arising from the use of chainsaws by volunteers. Several volunteers (including Brockley) regularly use them to clear fallen trees from trails. A signed waiver from volunteers may be necessary. Professional fallers have in the past donated their work to us; should we find a way to issue a tax receipt for such work?

ACTION: Landry to check with Marcus re insurance for volunteers using chainsaws.

Danenhower (new Chair) has formed a Trail Operations Committee which met March 10 at The Hive. The committee made a schedule for trail work parties and discussed delegating some of the activities.

7.4b INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL:

- The committee suggests April 28 (rather than May 12) as the date for the kick-off event in this year's broom-bash in Drumbeg Park. See also Item 7.6d.
- Boehm reported that he attended a conference in Richmond BC on BC's invasive plants and animals. Around 80 species were discussed. Japanese beetle and goldfish were of great concern, as were bivalves carried on boat bottoms. Policy makers there gave names of contractors able to remove Japanese knotweed. Boehm noted that on Gabriola we now have Asian milfoil, goldfish, Japanese knotweed, broom, giant hogweed, periwinkle, English ivy, and Himalayan blackberry, and that we still have much to do in making the community aware of these serious invasives.

7.4c BIG TREE REGISTRY: No report.

7.4d. POSAC Brockley was not able to be at the February 4 meeting but reported that there was a delegation asking for repair to the Spring Beach access stairs. RDN's response was to remove the stairs because they were dangerous. Replacing the stairs is not on the RDN work plan for 2019.

7.5. ACQUISITIONS, COVENANTS, AND TRAIL LICENCES: Nola had not much to report. The committee will meet soon to review its goals. See Item 9.1.

7.6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Marcus reported by email that the whole committee has not met yet this year.

7.6a Map subcommittee:

- After meeting with Brockley and Johnston regarding mapping and signage in the new 707 park lands, the map committee hopes to be able to print a new map in July.
- All map edits other than the 707 area will go to Cameron Murray by the end of March.
- Text has been much reduced to accommodate an enlarged map of 707 park on the reverse side. Layout and text for the map brochure still require work.
- She is still waiting to hear from Geraldine Manson regarding First Nation place-names. Proposed wording for the map introduction is: *"Gabriola Land and Trails Trust welcomes you and acknowledges with gratitude that the island now called Gabriola, and nearby islands, are the unceded territory of the Snunéymuxw First Nation"*.

7.6b Share the Trails:

- The Sounder picture last week about Sharing the Trails and Signage was by Lisa Carter.
- Trail signs are gradually being installed. Positive feedback so far, though some may be too high.

7.6c SFU-GES project: Gehlbach reported that several board members attended the recent GES professional-development-day gathering at Gabriola Elementary School at which a group of Cowichan First Nation Elders shared with over 70 Gabriolans (including many GES teachers) some of their

personal stories and led them through some group exercises to help them understand the cumulative impacts on their culture of the colonial process, the residential school system, and other social and personal stresses. Most participants found it very enlightening and moving, and many expressed that they had not learned any of this in school. Since the meeting, Boulton has met with Kate Reynolds (curriculum coordinator for the project) to explore what GaLTT might do to participate in the land-based education project. It is hoped that some of our board or members can work with assigned classes and teachers throughout the rest of the school year, exploring land-based issues relevant to First Nations culture. An example for GaLTT might be working with the students and teacher to reduce invasive plants in important camas meadows (such as in Drumbeg Park), incidentally learning of the importance of camas to First Nations culture. An RCMP criminal record check may be required to participate.

ACTION 1: Boulton to pursue further possibilities for GaLTT's participation in this project with its curriculum coordinators.

ACTION 2: Boulton to prepare an invitation to GaLTT members to participate in the project, to be distributed by Gehlbach to our membership email list.

7.6d Broom-bash kick-off: Skinner reported by email that “We will once again be doing an island wide broom bash, using the techniques of Broombusters.org, which is to cut at ground level while blooming. BC Parks has agreed we can hold our kick-off event Sunday, April 28th in Drumbeg park and they will come to help with a dump truck to haul it away. We will be staying out of the big meadow to protect camas lilies. We will tackle the dense area along the tree line where we had our second cut last May. The Lions club will once again organize the BBQ for the opening event as well as pick up and disposal of broom cut outside the park. They will decide how to dispose of it. Several keen volunteers are going to be doing experiments on broom to determine things like how best to kill big broom and when seed pods are viable. They'll be using some of Boulton's land. I am meeting with these volunteers on Wednesday, March 20, 1:30 at the Hive. Other broom obsessed volunteers are welcome.

DISCUSSION: There is a lot of small broom in the parks now, that could be carefully pulled. It would be useful to develop a strategy in cooperation with BC Parks that would ensure that areas cleared in the past are monitored for new growth and maintained as necessary.

ACTION: Skinner to consult with a BC Parks ecologist regarding pulling young broom in winter or early spring before the camas blooms, to keep previously cleared areas broom-free.

7.6e Rescheduling Hebda's talk: Gehlbach reported that she had again emailed Richard Hebda at the end of last week about giving a late spring talk on Gabriola and has not yet heard back from him.

7.7 STREAMKEEPERS: Chris Hills reported that at their February meeting they discussed expanding Streamkeepers' scope to include wetlands. Discussion will continue. They had a nice walk on March 10 to Sandwell and the saltwater marsh. Twenty people (including a couple of VIU students from Nanaimo) came out, more than anticipated. Jethro had set some fish traps the day before, so everyone got to see a bunch of sticklebacks. Feedback was really positive. Laura-Jean Kelly from Gabriola Shorekeepers was there and discussed future collaborative walks and beach clean-up projects.

7.8 COMMUNICATIONS: Gehlbach reported that the Committee has, in addition to regular work on Board record-keeping, social media work, and website maintenance, the committee has done:

- **AGM** and speaker publicity, including cancellation & AGM rescheduling

- **AGM documentation** (minutes for approval, financial reports, election slate and candidate bios, for presentation at the meeting)
- **AGM slideshow presentation** (including president's report and committee reports) about GaLTT's work in 2018.
- **Annual newsletter** writing and graphics, print and digital production and distribution
- **Accessibility survey** creation, testing, digital & print production, publicity and launch including producing posters, flyers, emails, and newspaper article and ad.
- **Google docs and G-suite** assessment.

8.0 OLD BUSINESS:

8.1. ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT: Cameron reported that the final report from the consultant about Twin beaches accessibility has been received and shared with BC Parks. The community-wide accessibility survey was tested, then launched at the AGM. Emails with links to the online survey have been sent to our members and the GabEvents email list. Paper copies are available at PHC, both clinics, the library, and the Islands Trust office. Digital links to the online survey are on our web page and have been sent to the three Facebook Community Bulletin Boards as well as our own FB page. An ad and article will appear in this week's Sounder. Nola reported that the survey already has over 150 respondents.

ACTION: Gehlbach to send reminders to members and Facebook pages after two weeks, and/or as survey participation drops off before the deadline.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Google docs and G-Suite: Johnston has investigated the use of Google docs and G-Suite for online storage of shareable documents for ACTL committee and GaLTT. A version of the Business package is available free to non-profit organizations who provide proof of their non-profit status.

MOTION proposed by Nola Johnston to acquire the free version of G-suite for GaLTT's use, supplying whatever documentation is needed. CARRIED.

9.2: Purchasing a GPS Unit: Johnston has investigated the use of various GPS units for marking trails and mapping, using a computer interface.

MOTION proposed by Nola Johnston seconded by Landry to approve financing up to \$550 to purchase a Garmin 64 GPS Unit for GaLTT. CARRIED.

A donation to GaLTT received in late 2018 will be used to purchase the GPS unit.

ACTION: Johnston and Brockley: Once the unit is purchased a note will be sent to the donors informing them of the use of their donated funds.

10.0 *In Camera* discussion of Commons Covenant:

Procedural motions proposed by Jenni Gehlbach to move *in camera* for discussion, and afterwards, to move *ex camera*. CARRIED.

MOTION: proposed by Anne Landry, seconded by Rob Brockley to inform the Commons Covenant Committee that GaLTT regrettably declines their invitation to hold the kind of all-inclusive covenant presented in November 2018. We would be willing to consider holding a more conventional conservation covenant on a defined portion of the Commons property.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Motion to adjourn proposed by Brockley at 9.10pm. Carried.

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday April 9, 2019 at The Commons.

Present: David Boehm, Laura Boulton, Rob Brockley, Tom Cameron, Peter Danenhower, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Nola Johnston, Anne Landry, Derrill Shuttleworth, Lou Skinner, Frank Shoemaker. **Regrets:** Rebecca Furnell, Chris Hills, Kerry Marcus.

1. Meeting called to order at 7pm by Brockley, who acknowledged that we were meeting on unceded Coast Salish territory. Brockley introduced and welcomed Shuttleworth to the Board.
2. AGENDA: Adopted by consensus with the addition of one item under New Business:
Item 7.2 Support requested from GaLTT for a place-based learning event for visiting faculty, alumni, and adult PhD students. Request from Gabriola resident and organizer Alice MacGillivray—Libby Gunn
3. MINUTES from March 2019
MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Anne Landry to accept the minutes for March 2019 board meeting as presented. Carried.
4. CORRESPONDENCE:
 - Letter from Nick Doe re Coats Marsh and 707 management—DISCUSSION: Although some points in Doe’s letter re trail work and signage were inaccurate, maybe as a board we need to increase our focus on conservation, since we are chiefly recognised in the community for our work on parks and trails.
ACTION 1: Brockley to invite Doe to address the Board about Coats Marsh conservation and related issues at the beginning of our June board meeting.
ACTION 2: GaLTT to be active in support for the Islands Trust’s P4 zoning initiative.
 - Brockley sent an email to the other recipients of Nick Doe’s letter expressing the Board’s preliminary views of the points raised with regard to 707 and Coats Marsh management.
 - Following the Board’s email discussion of the request from April Vannini for a letter expressing GaLTT’s support for Gabriola Skatepark’s RDN variance application at Huxley Park, Brockley declined, since it is outside our mandate and we are unsure of our members’ support for the initiative. Individual board members may support this personally if they wish.
 - Letter to K. Louise Vincent re the Commons Covenant. DISCUSSION: Vincent responded thanking us for our consideration and noting that our response will be discussed at their upcoming team meeting
5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - 5.1. EXECUTIVE: Brockley reported that he and Executive Committee (in addition to correspondence noted above):
 - Prepared and submitted invoice and completion report to Islands Trust for Elder Cedar contract.
 - Contacted Vanessa Craig (RDN Area B Director) requesting an introductory meeting.
 - Contacted GaLTT Board members to solicit possible discussion points for meeting with Vanessa Craig.
 - Discussed volunteer chainsaw policy.

- Discussed leave of absence with Kerry and arranged for temporary shifts in responsibilities with Board members:
 - Skinner will take on Marcus' role in Community engagement.
 - Johnston will take on leadership of the map committee
- Prepared and submitted grant-in-aid application to Gabriola Recreation Society for work on Peterson to McDonald trail which floods badly in winter.
DISCUSSION: winter floods affect several trails. Boehm noted that the trail to River Place in Cox Park is particularly difficult for cyclists. Cameron noted that RDN had promised a better grade trail once the new road goes through to Church Street.
- Discussed pulling existing map inventory from vendors.
- Prepared notice to be sent to all GaLTT members announcing new Haven Woods trail.
- Responded by email to request from FATMAP for GaLTT collaboration.
- Responded to Chamber of Commerce request re map availability and total length of Gabriola trails.
- Discussed with Anne Landry upcoming co-presentation to the Friends of French Creek Conservation Society.
- Filed BC Society Annual Report.

5.2. TREASURER: Skinner reported that finance committee has been fine tuning the account reports to make them easier to read and to reflect our not-for-profit status.

Our accountant Maureen O'Rourke will step down in mid-July and we must find a replacement. She is paid for 5 hours work per month and uses the software "SAGE".

ACTION: Cameron to find a replacement accountant and will ask O'Rourke to write a job description to be used in the search.

On March 31, GaLTT had \$141,619.16 cash on hand. \$125,000 was invested in a 90-day GIC in early April (due to a misunderstanding we missed the 1 year redeemable GIC discussed at the March board meeting).

Several payments in March were made using e-transfers rather than cheques. This incurred new bank charges of \$10.50, offset by the convenience and reduction of mail and cheque expenses. Payments made during March were:

Cheque #167 to James Young for doggy bags; E-transfers to Gabriola Sounder for \$156.24 for ad re AGM rescheduling; to Arbutus Building Supply for \$450.61 for Elder Cedar project; to Gallery Press for \$264.32 for printed Accessibility Surveys, and \$69.48 for posters re survey; to Gabriola Sounder \$156.24 for BC Parks Accessibility Project ad; to Glorai Hatfield at Page's Resort \$390 to reimburse for prepaid maps pulled from market; to Maureen O'Rourke \$1450 for 6-months accounting fees.

5.3. MEMBERSHIP: Furnell had previously circulated the list of new and renewing members. She is checking with O'Rourke that all paper applications received through the mail have been forwarded to her because there have been some omissions in the past.

Motion: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Anne Landry to accept the listed applicants as members of GaLTT. Carried.

5.4. TRAILS AND PARK MANAGEMENT:

- **Trail work:** Danenhower reported that Brockley has been covering for him in recent weeks as trail operations chair.
 - All work in Elder Cedar has been completed except removal of a steel post, which Danenhower will do shortly.
 - The Haven Woods trail re-routing, as requested by the owner, is now complete.
 - 23 new sign posts have been installed in the northern section of 707 Park, with 22 more to be installed at the next work party in the southern section, including the new parkland. It is very hard work.
 - All posts are placed at the correct location by the RDN Parks Dept. It was noted that RDN would also have installed the posts eventually, but GaLTT had volunteered to help expedite the process so that our new map could include the post number information.
 - The committee discussed implementing formal mini work parties between the twice monthly Sunday sessions. On Tuesday April 2, a group of four volunteers installed 7 posts in 707 to complete the first half of the signage work.
 - The committee is proposing a new policy for volunteers using power tools (including chainsaws). They have studied the policy used by Habitat for Humanity, which may be too strict. He has circulated to the Board a proposed policy and waiver for volunteers to sign.
 - We will continue to hire qualified fallers to deal with large chainsaw jobs. Boehm noted that he is a qualified chainsaw operator and can help.
- **Invasives control:** Boehm spoke again about the conference he attended in March, noting in particular the importance of controlling both broom (which we are making headway on with our continuing community drive) and *Daphne laurealis*, which is taking over the understorey. **DISCUSSION:** Since we have limited volunteer resources, already at capacity, whether this initiative requires a separate, related organization (similar to Streamkeepers and Shorekeepers) whose mandate is specifically control of invasive species on Gabriola.
ACTION 1: Boehm to investigate setting up a separate organization under the GaLTT umbrella, dedicated to the control of invasive species on Gabriola.
ACTION 2: GaLTT to have a table at the Commons Spring Fair that emphasizes invasives, particularly Daphne.
- **POSAC**—Beach stairs have been removed by RDN at Joyce Lockwood Park, and several Whalebone Community Parks, and also now at Spring Beach. The public continues to use these access areas, with greater hazard.
- **Big Tree registry:** Boehm noted that there has been limited public interest in the registry recently, and that this item should be removed from the regular reporting agenda at our Board meetings. The website registry pages to remain in place.

5.5. ACQUISITIONS, COVENANTS, AND TRAILS: Nola has taken over chairing the ACTL committee and reported that they met last week.

- **Map revisions (see also Item 5.6.1):** Johnston has taken on managing map revisions, all other projects she was working on have been put on hold. We are behind schedule, but map designer Cameron Murray thinks we'll still be able to meet our publishing deadline. She will meet with him next Monday to review materials.

–Committee reviewed progress, Johnston will implement changes and distribute draft of layout for board input. Committee members are pursuing actions relating to map revisions (e.g. trail licence for Seymour Road connector)

–To avoid confusion re the new post numbers in 707, the RDN plans to put maps at entrances.

ACTION: ACTL committee recommends handing out free black and white updates showing new numbering at the market table for the first year.

- **Naming new trails:** RDN wants GaLTT's input on naming trails: ACTL recommends that this be a public process and that we only contribute as part of that.
- **Properties of interest:** a "watchlist" will be given to realtors so that ACTL will be notified when properties of interest come on the market and/or change hands.
It was noted that there is a 40+acre meadow and forest (badly invaded by Daphne) property for sale currently near Brickyard Beach, with Agricultural zoning and including a stream and wetland.
- **Spring beach stairs:** POSAC has indicated this as having high priority.
- **Kensington Lands wood poaching:** Fallen trees are being taken from the Kensington lands and it appears that someone is making a business out of doing so, telling people that they have a contract to clear deadfalls and take out danger trees on Crown lands, and they are selling what is taken for firewood. Caretaker Peter Lloyd has confirmed that there is no contract and that "firewood-cutting or any other wood removal is not permitted on the Kensington lands."
ACTION 1: GaLTT should (a) keep an eye out for disappearing fallen trees, to make sure this isn't turning into an industry, and (b) keep a particularly close eye on Elder Cedar.
ACTION 2: Landry to discuss with Jemma Green (Nuala Murphy's on-leave replacement at ITC) adding boundary signs at the east side of Elder Cedar to reduce the threat of poaching in the Reserve.
- **Covenant monitoring:** Bachmann and Elder Cedar will be monitored on April 30. Board members are encouraged to participate as it will be the last year long-term ITC monitors Chris Ferris and Doug Hopwood will be involved.

5.6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- **Map committee:** Johnston reported that some ground-truthing of trails is still required, looking for volunteers to do it (before Monday if possible).

ACTION: Johnston to email board members about the various trail routes requiring verification.

Board discussed at length the actual vs mapped route of the viewpoint trail near Sir William Drive.

ACTION: Trail work crew to install a sign indicating the legal route of the Sir Williams Drive view trail.

Beach accesses also require verification for the map update. Some may need clearing and marking again.

ACTION 1: Danenhower and Brockley to review their beach access notes and give them to the map committee as soon as possible.

ACTION 2: Committee to contact Laura Jean Kelly about helping with beach access verification.

- **Share the Trails:** Shuttleworth reported that the committee of horse riders, bikers, and GaLTT have put up 15 of the 20 purchased signs about sharing the trails at park entrances. They are placed high to discourage vandalism. They have been requested not to install them within the parks.
- **SFU-GES project:** Boulton reported that the Research Grant for the two-year project was received, but no recent meetings have occurred. Kate Reynolds will meet next week with Boulton, Gunn, and Skinner (and maybe Boulton) to discuss possible GaLTT activities such as guided walks that tie in with the curriculum.
- **Broombash and kick-off event:** Skinner reported
The kick-off event at Drumbeg will run from noon to 3pm on Sunday, April 28. GaLTT (Danenhower) will manage group cutting. Lions Club will organise the BBQ and other refreshments; BC Parks will provide trucks for hauling cut broom for disposal. Action will concentrate in the dense growth area away from the camas area in the park.
Local volunteer cutting groups will operate on four Thursdays from 7 to 8.30pm, starting April 25 at: (1) South Firehall; (2) The village area (parking at Agi Hall); (3) Bertha and Jeanette; (4) The Dole Road area. The Cub Scouts are cutting at Rollo Park. Lions Club will organize disposal of the cut broom from these areas.
Some broom enthusiasts are doing tests on seeding and effective methods of control.
ACTION 1: Board members to ask other groups they are involved with to pick a location to cut broom as a group.
ACTION 2: GaLTT board members will cut broom on South Road from GAHC to Lockinvar before the May meeting.
- **Rescheduling Hebda's talk:** Gehlbach reported that Hebda is still not responding to messages. She will continue to try to contact him about rescheduling.

5.7. STREAMKEEPERS: Chris Hills had previously circulated his report:

- Gabriola Elementary School will be releasing Salmon fry into the lower end of Mallett Creek this Wednesday afternoon
- SK will participate in Commons Spring Fair
- They have been in regular contact with a homeowner struggling with owners of the lot being developed beside them about the impact on a seasonal stream and their own property. The owners have talked to MOTI and with Island's Trust and have a case file open with a Natural Resource Officer. They asked if SK could get involved but the issue has created animosity and the Streamkeepers aren't equipped to handle this type of situation.

- 5.8. COMMUNICATIONS: Gehlbach reported that she continues to maintain and update the Website and Facebook announcements about upcoming events and activities, and recently responded to a discussion about seasonal wildflowers in local parks and alongside trails.
–Johnston is very busy managing the ongoing map brochure design update.
–A repeat ad about the accessibility survey was requested for this week’s edition of the Sounder. Reminder emails were sent to all GaLTT members.
–Emails about regular work crews were sent to GaLTT volunteers as requested.
6. OLD BUSINESS
- 6.1. **Accessibility project:**
Survey: Cameron reported that so far 263 surveys have been completed, with only 10 of them handwritten. He noted that the written detailed personal comments were extremely interesting and will be very useful as we plan our work. SurveyMonkey has many options for analysis and organization of the results, which will be quick.
Gabriola Sands, Twin Beaches Report: The report is complete and has been submitted. We have copies. The contractor Stan Leyenhorst’s invoice has been paid and Landry has invoiced BC Parks for reimbursement.
- 6.2. **Volunteers’ use of power tools**—Danenhower had previously circulated the committee’s proposed policy and waiver re volunteers’ use of power tools.
Discussion deferred to next board meeting in May.
7. NEW BUSINESS
- 7.1. **Gabriola Trek:** It was decided to have the Gabriola Trek on Sunday, June 2, finishing by walking through some of the new trails in expanded 707 to the Golf Club for refreshments. Several possibilities for the first section of the walk were suggested.
ACTION 1: Skinner, Johnston, Shuttleworth, and Gehlbach to continue the discussion to settle the entire route for the trek.
ACTION 2: Shuttleworth to organize a concurrent mountain bike ride with the same starting point and destination.
- 7.2. **Island Systems post-graduate project:** Gunn reported that she had spoken that Alice MacGillivray contacted Gunn with a request for GaLTT to assist in planning and/or delivering theme-based walks with a sub-group of 16 students and 4 faculty of Fielding Graduate University, who will visit Gabriola May 28–31 to learn about *Islands as Systems*.
ACTION: Boehm and Cameron offered to help, and Gunn will pass their contact information on to MacGillivray.
8. IN CAMERA: Brockley moved the meeting go *in camera* to discuss Marcus’ family situation.
ACTION: Brockley to email members for their personal input regarding ways to help the Marcus family at this time.
9. ADJOURN: Boehm moved adjournment at 9pm.

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday May 14, 2019 at GAHC.

Present: David Boehm, Laura Boulton, Rob Brockley, Tom Cameron, Peter Danenhower, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Chris Hills, Nola Johnston, Derrill Shuttleworth, Lou Skinner, Frank Shoemaker.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus.

1. Meeting called to order at 7pm by Brockley.
2. AGENDA: Adopted by consensus with the addition of New Business Item 7.3, Illegal wood removal from Elder Cedar Nature Reserve. (Boehm also requested addition to June's agenda of an item about the need for a special group to open/maintain safe beach accesses.)
3. MINUTES from April 2019
 - MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by David Boehm to accept the minutes for April 2019 board meeting as presented. CARRIED.**
4. CORRESPONDENCE:
 - Nick Doe: Letter April 14 in response to Doe re Coats Marsh and 707 management; email and notes April 23 from Doe re Coats Marsh management planning; and Doe's follow-up letter to GaLTT May 9.
 - Gabriola Museum: Letter April 18 in support of their gaming application.
 - Legends strata group: Response April 22 re GaLTT's request for trail licence on strata road
 - Gabriola Recreation Society: May 2 response re Grant-in-Aid application.
 - Camp Miriam: May 2 requesting volunteer work opportunities for summer campers.
5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - 5.1 EXECUTIVE: Brockley reported that he and Executive Committee (in addition to correspondence noted above):
 - Discussed trail licence possibility for Seymour strata road with Strata chair.
 - Collected and delivered gift from Board members to Tom and Kerry Marcus.
 - Developed and gave presentation (with Anne Landry) at Friends of French Creek Conservation Society AGM on April 24.
 - Wrote letter to Nick Doe in response to his letter of March 24.
 - Assigned proxy to NALT for Land Trust Alliance of BC AGM.
 - Wrote letter for Gabriola Historical & Museum Society in support of gaming grant application.
 - Met with Vanessa Craig (RDN Director, Electoral Area 'B') for one hour. She knows us mainly as a trail-building organization, our work with invasive plants, and our participation in development proposal processes. Discussed Community Work Funding being used mainly for the Village Trail (now approved by MOTI) currently, rather than e.g., beach access stairs. Craig was uncomfortable having sole discretion over community works

spending decisions and would prefer to have an advisory committee to help with decision-making.

- Phone conversations with property owner and RDN staff regarding potential land acquisition.
- Submitted survey to Wildlife Habitat Canada for potential land trust projects under the new Natural Heritage Conservation Program.
- Met with RDN Parks staff regarding the signage project in 707 Community Park.
- Submitted proposal to Islands Trust Conservancy for 2019/20 work in Elder Cedar Nature Reserve, in particular to build a boardwalk near the Windecker entrance to the Reserve.

5.2 TREASURER: Skinner reported that our budget is on track aside from negative map sales.

On April 30, GaLTT had \$17, 174 in our accounts, and \$125,000 is invested in a 90-day GIC (maturing early July). Payments made during April were:

Cheques: #168, April 8 to Rob Brockley \$40 for BC Society filing; #169 April 8, to Lou Skinner \$95.18 for purchase of two loppers. #170 April 9 to the Commons \$10. for room rental.

E-transfers: April 2 to Shoring Signfast for \$33.60 (dog signs); April 8 to Outdoor Recreation Council \$96. (membership fee); April 11 & April 16 to The Haven for \$50. (refunds for restocked maps); April 16 to Gallery Press \$58.22 (broom-bash flyers); April 18 to Arbutus Home Building \$306.44 (Elder Cedar trail building supplies). Bank charges \$9.

Cameron had prepared to advertise GaLTT's book-keeper's position since Maureen O'Rourke is leaving in June, but board member Frank Shoemaker has volunteered to take on the task as part of his board duties. Since Skinner is busy with her new role of Community Engagement chair, Shoemaker will also take on the role of Treasurer, thus becoming a member of the Executive Committee.

MOTION 1: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by David Boehm that Frank Shoemaker be appointed Treasurer of GaLTT and also perform the duties of the Society's book-keeper after Maureen O'Rourke's contract expires. CARRIED.

MOTION 2: Proposed by Tom Cameron, seconded by David Boehm that Frank Shoemaker be added to the list of signatories for GaLTT. The five signatories are: Rob Brockley, Tom Cameron, Jenni Gehlbach, Frank Shoemaker, and Lou Skinner. Any two of these five may sign on behalf of the Society.

5.3 MEMBERSHIP: Furnell had previously circulated the list of new and renewing members.

MOTION: Proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded by Lou Skinner to accept the listed applicants as members of GaLTT. CARRIED.

5.4 TRAILS AND PARK MANAGEMENT:

- a. **Trail work (See also Item 6.2):** Danenhower reported that he is still working on getting an active committee going. This month the committee has:
 - Placed new trail signs in Robinson Woods.
 - Repainted beach access markers.
 - Noted missing or displaced beach access markers.

- Participated in three broom-bashing events.
 - Discussed the pros and cons of using gravel and boardwalks to allow pedestrian access along the wet section of Peterson to MacDonald trail. There were concerns about damaging the nearby wetland with gravel infill.
- b. **Invasives control:** Boehm reported invasive plant activity was mostly with broom this month. He is very concerned about giant hogweed infestations. BC Parks sprayed it in Drumbeg Park several years ago, but since then Boehm has pulled emerging plants by hand. It also grows on private land near Robinson Woods and is beginning to spread toward the wetland there.
- c. **POSAC**—Brockley had no report. The next meeting is in June.

5.5 ACQUISITIONS, COVENANTS, AND TRAILS: Nola reported that committee members have been exploring the possibilities of new trails and trail licences. Also:

- Trail licences:
 - A trail connector on the ROW from Church St to Tin Can Alley has been laid out and is on the schedule for trail building on June 9.
 - Our request for a trail licence for the Seymour Road connector has been declined by the strata, citing issues with regard to insurance and liability.
- Covenants: Elder Cedar/Bachmann monitoring is complete. Robinson Woods monitoring is upcoming in June; Landry will notify as to the schedule.
- Conservation funding: A new Federal conservation funding initiative called The Natural Heritage Conservation Program offers opportunities for GaLTT. They have committed \$100m over four years to protect habitat (goal is 200,000 ha), administered by Nature Conservancy of Canada; Ducks Unlimited is a partner. They will provide 1/3 funding for projects; the rest must come from other (non-federal) sources.
- Acquisition planning: The ACTL committee recognizes that GaLTT needs to engage in long-term planning to identify projects and properties of interest. We should begin our formal acquisition evaluation process on properties of interest so that we have our ducks in a row if we need to move quickly. Landry will initiate the process of developing a simple conservation strategy that provides a list of priority properties. This will involve consultation with knowledgeable community members and accessing resources from government agencies when possible. Johnston has begun to set up the structure for a watch-list of “properties of interest” for acquisition and trail licences. This will be provided to real estate agent so we can be notified when properties come up for sale (and then change hands).
- Ken Gurr (a trained ecologist and member of the Chamber of Commerce) has approached Cameron about working with GaLTT on issues relating to conservation and education, specifically for landowners who wish to know more about conservation goals and strategies for their properties.
ACTION: Cameron to invite Ken Gurr to discuss with the board his plan to produce materials to help landowners conserve their properties.

5.6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

a. Map committee: Johnston reported:

- Geraldine Manson gave us a map with Hul'qumi'num' place names, and Cameron Murray has added these to the new trail map.
- The committee made the following decisions re map content: *We will not attempt to classify trails by difficulty; the map will note that any trail on Gabriola may have rough sections and that their condition varies by season and weather.*
- Posts and numbering in expanded 707: all posts are in the ground. Chris van Ossenbrugen has been tasked with developing the numbering system. He met with Brockley and we are waiting for information. See also Item 5.6b.
- Interim arrangement for the market table: GaLTT will hand out our outdated maps for a small donation (labelled as out of date) and Nola will develop a sample detail map of the new 707 trails (possibly laminated) for the market table, and maybe small black and white handout to distribute (also free).

ACTION 1: Gehlbach to change the information about map sales on the website, explaining about the forthcoming update.

ACTION 2: Cameron to organize printed stickers to attach to the outdate maps to be distributed at the market.

- Johnston met with Murray and there are some outstanding questions re map revisions to discuss at the board meeting.
 - Murray wishes to produce a map that is twice the size of the previous edition allowing for better design and legibility. DISCUSSION: pros and cons included bulk and weight; ease of handling in outdoor conditions; whether an enlarged 707 map would still be needed on the reverse; what other information could be included; increased cost of paper and paper; whether increased production costs would result in a big price increase or financial losses on the maps.

ACTION: Johnston to investigate the relative costs of printing and water-resistant paper for the larger format map.
 - The board approved the use of the tent symbol to indicate camping (replacing the teepee icon) but did *not* approve the use of the eyeball symbol to indicate lookout points.

ACTION: Johnston to ask Murray to replace the eye symbol with the customary binocular icon to indicate lookout points.

- b. **Share the Trails:** Shuttleworth reported that in meeting other trail users he is hearing complaints about the number and size of new posts in the enlarged 707 Park. People are assuming this is GaLTT's decision. DISCUSSION: whether a PR campaign is needed to explain the roles of RDN and GaLTT in this.

ACTION 1: Brockley to discuss with RDN and/or Vanessa Craig the need for PR in the community about the new 707 park signage posts.

ACTION 2: Gunn to work with Brockley to draft key points for market volunteers, so that there is consistent and accurate messaging about changes to the 707 signage.

- c. **SFU-GES project:** Boulton reported that the three-year research project has been funded, but no specific project activities have started yet. A gathering of interested parties for this project and the Truth and Reconciliation participants is planned shortly.
- d. **Broombash** Skinner reported that a very large area has been cleared in Drumbeig Park as well as the area near the South firehall. Neighbourhood bashes have had 14 participants—a big increase from last year. The involvement of other local groups as well as the Cubs and Beavers has also been very successful. The broom drop for disposal at the end of Chernoff is working out well—huge piles are accumulating and will be burned under supervision of the fire department. Seed pods are now forming, so the cuts will be stopped soon. On June 1, Lions will do a final pickup around the island and drop-off at the Chernoff site.
- e. **Rescheduling Hebda's talk:** Gehlbach reported that Hebda is still not responding to messages. She suggested deferring the talk until the Fall or even until our next AGM.
- f. **Market display.** The committee is considering the design of a new banner to be used at events. The display table will use the tent and banner awning to increase visibility and the display items will be updated.
- g. **Four summer events** (as yet unspecified) will be planned.

5.7 STREAMKEEPERS: Chris Hills reported that they weren't able to meet last month but have a few things to report on. There was a good turnout for the Salmon Fry Release in April on Mallett Creek and some good publicity around it. They were at the Spring Fair at the Commons, sharing a table with Shorekeepers, which made a lot of sense and might be something we continue to do. A couple of new people signed up to our volunteer/ mailing list. They will also have a display table at Ocean's Day in Descanso Bay Park on June 9.

5.8 COMMUNICATIONS: Gehlbach reported that they:

- maintained website and FB page with updates re broom bashing, trail work, Commons Spring Fair, access survey, and the upcoming trek
- responded to GaLTT-related FB discussion/questions re invasive plants and Coats Marsh water level and the beaver dam
- following complaint from a member, revised the wording of the membership webpage to clarify and simplify application instructions
- discussed with other board members membership fee structure (single vs family rates)
- discussed with other board members improving processes for using the PO box.
- met with Geraldine Manson at VIU to discuss FN place names on Gabriola and protocols for identifying sensitive FN sites on our maps.
- prepared and placed newspaper ads for the accessibility survey and its extension
- prepared and placed newspaper ads for broom-bash events

6 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Accessibility project survey: Johnston reported that the survey is now closed—we had 280 respondents plus a few late paper copies that still need to have their data entered. She will organize a meeting with Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley and Cameron to discuss the interpretation of the results.

6.2 Volunteers' use of power tools: Danenhower had previously circulated a chainsaw policy that was long and complex. There are currently 4 or 5 trail-work volunteers who are able, equipped, and qualified to operate chainsaws. DISCUSSION: Training, insurance, certification, and appropriate protective clothing and equipment are needed for safe chainsaw use—this may be outside GaLTT's mandate and/or capabilities to provide.

DECISION: GaLTT volunteers who understand and comply with safety requirements, supply their own equipment, and sign a waiver may use chainsaws but only for removing snags and fallen trees that block trails. Tree trimming and falling are not our jobs.

6.3 Cross Gabriola Trek route has been decided and tested for timing:

1st leg: 10am leave Whalebone to Elder Cedar; Kensington Lands to Tait;

2nd leg 12.15 leave Tait on the trail parallel to North Rd to 707 and on trails to Jeanette;

3rd leg 1.45 leave Jeanette to walk south and west to the Golf Club on new 707 trails.

Arrive Golf Club 3pm. Gehlbach to lead the first section; Brockley to lead the second; Johnston to lead the third. Sweeps to be arranged.

7 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Membership fee structure discussion: Deferred to June meeting.

7.2 BC Parks Enhancement Fund: Interpretive signage. Gunn who has worked on signage issues with Parks Canada, and Johnston who has done so with BC Parks, felt that this issue was too complex for us to make a timely, useful judgement.

7.3 Wood removal from Elder Cedar: Deferred to the June meeting.

8 Moved by David Boehm to take discussion *in camera* to discuss a possible park addition.

9 Moved to by Rob Brockley to move *ex camera* and adjourn at 9.15pm.