

GaLTT Board Meeting Minutes 2021

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Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday January 12, 2021, by Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Peter Danenhower, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Nola Johnston, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Lou Skinner. **Regrets:** Rebecca Furnell

1. The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Brockley.

2. AGENDA:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston, to adopt the reorganized agenda to allow discussion of the Treasurer's Report and other AGM related business before the committee reports. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Anne Landry, to accept the minutes for the December Board meeting as circulated and amended. CARRIED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thankyou letter from RDN re GaLTT's contribution to land purchase.
- Letter from GHS requesting organizational letters of support
- Letters to LTC and BC Housing for GHS.
- Thank you letter to Victoria Foundation for anonymous donation.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shoemaker had previously circulated his draft annual budget for 2021, his 2020 year-end report of our Financial Position, and of Receipts and Disbursements. He has an appointment tomorrow with book-keeper Victoria Banford to discuss our 2020 Financial Reports. On December 24, 2020 he renewed our term deposit for 1 year, to pay interest around 3% unless it is cashed early. He reported that during December we received a \$3K personal donation and an anonymous \$5K donation toward land acquisition. These were noted on a separate reporting line because they were significantly higher than our usual donations.

a) At year end our total current assets were \$116,370. In 2020, we received \$32,641 and spent \$22,507—net ordinary income \$10,134. In addition, we received donations of \$11,447 for land acquisition and paid \$57,000 to support an RDN land acquisition, reducing our net assets by \$35,419.

MOTION: Proposed by Frank Shoemaker, seconded by Peter Danenhower to accept the 2020 Year-end Financial Statements as presented. CARRIED

b) Shoemaker also presented his proposed budget for 2021 estimating total receipts of \$33,900 and disbursements of \$33,800 based on committee heads' estimates of 2021 expenses. Figures relating to Nature Stewards are estimates that assume the receipt of approximately \$5K from grants applied for. If the money is not awarded, it won't be spent.

MOTION: Proposed by Frank Shoemaker, seconded by Peter Danenhower to accept the 2021 Budget as presented. CARRIED.

ACTION: Shoemaker to send a copy of the 2020 Financial Report to Gehlbach for distribution to GaLTT members with the notice (before January 19) of the AGM.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Candidates for Board:** Lou Skinner and Peter Danenhower are stepping down from the Board. Board thanked them for the huge amount of work done—from endless Covid-distanced Boardwalk building in the rain to the hugely popular Great Winter Walks initiative. We will miss them and are pleased they will

remain active on their various committees.

Brockley reported that in addition to candidates Hugh Skinner, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, and Sarah Kopjar, he had recently been approached by Tom Wojcik of GORCA about serving on the Board to represent the interests and concerns of off-road cyclists. He also serves on POSAC so would not be a “single-issue candidate” and would be a good communication channel regarding Share the Trails.

DISCUSSION: Will a Board of 15 with 5 new members be unwieldy? Also, although some GORCA and GaLTT interests may be at odds (such as unauthorized trail building in parks), having an efficient means of communicating with the biking community will be very useful.

ACTION: Brockley to welcome Tom Wojcik’s candidacy and ask him to send to him or Gehlbach a brief biography for the election and a photo for the website.

- b) **AGM organization.** Brockley has set up a Zoom webinar link for the AGM on Tuesday, February 2, with registration to start at 6.30pm, and meeting to start at 7pm. Nola reported that an ad had been placed in the January 13 edition of The Sounder notifying the public of the meeting.

ACTION 1: Brockley to set up a test meeting with Board members to ensure registration, voting, and document sharing goes smoothly.

ACTION 2: Gehlbach to place the AGM notices in the Sounder events calendar, on our Facebook page, and on the website.

ACTION 3: Gehlbach to notify members before January 19 by email, reminding them how to renew their memberships before the meeting and attaching copies of

- AGM agenda
- 2020 AGM draft minutes for approval
- 2020 Financial Report
- Proposed draft bylaw changes and Brockley’s explanation
- Slate of Board candidates
- Brief biographies of continuing Board members and candidates for election.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Proposed bylaw revision:** Brockley had prepared a notice to members detailing the proposed bylaw change and the reasons for the change.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston that the Directors present the following bylaw change for approval by our GaLTT members at the AGM.

“Proposed Bylaw revision: The current Bylaw is worded as follows:

‘Plan, promote and develop a network of trails that provide routes for non-motorized users to connect island neighbourhoods, parks, beach accesses and services.’

The Directors propose that the Bylaw be revised as follows:

‘Plan, develop, maintain, conserve and promote a sustainable network of trails that provide routes to connect and explore island neighbourhoods, parks, shore accesses and services, and engage and educate to encourage the responsible use of them.’”

CARRIED.

- b) **Board Orientation and expectations:** Brockley has reviewed the “Expectations of Directors” document, since several new Directors are expected to join the Board.

MOTION: proposed by Kerry Marcus, seconded by Nola Johnston to approve the Expectations of Directors document developed by Brockley. CARRIED

ACTION: Brockley to send a copy of the Expectations of Directors document to the five new Director candidates.

- c) **Chamber of Commerce Social Media Strategy Project:** Skinner reported that she has been in discussions with Julie Sperber at the Chamber of Commerce about this program, through which students will use HootSuite to work for 2 hours per week to develop a social media strategy suitable to our organization's needs. They will interview committees to discover their specific needs and the process should be wrapped up by April.

ACTION: Since Skinner is leaving the Board, Nola volunteered to be the liaison for this initiative.

- d) **Review of Strategic Plan progress:** Brockley suggested that, starting in March, the Board will spend 15 minutes at the beginning of each Board meeting reviewing one section of our Strategic Plan to assess our progress in meeting its objectives. Each Committee to review their role in each particular objective.
- e) **Possible donation to Museum Society.** After discussing financial issues Board decided that the best way for GaLTT to contribute to the Museum's purchase of the covenanted MacRae property would be through activities such as signage design and installation, drawing up a Trail licence with the museum, and developing ways to protect the wild-flower meadow.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

8.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE: Brockley reported re:

Administration, reports

- Signed a Trail Licence Agreement with the new owners of property with an existing trail licence
- Re Director candidates:
 - Asked board members on expiring 2-year terms to think about future intentions
 - Held discussions with two potential Board members
 - Checked with Rebecca Furnell regarding membership status of incoming Directors
- Applied for Business BCeID for GaLTT and requested access to the Local Government Information System for access to Infrastructure funding program
- Reviewed draft revisions to Conflict of Interest and Sponsorship policies
- Prepared draft text for
 - revised Bylaw Part 13(3a) and Initiated Executive and Board
 - explanatory note to GaLTT members regarding the proposed Bylaw change
 - expectations of Directors to initiate Executive and Board discussions

Correspondence and phone discussions:

- Notes and emails:
 - letter of thanks to The Victoria Foundation for donation from Anonymous Fund
 - message for inclusion in 2020 tax receipts
 - cards and emails to several donors
 - to RDN (Elaine McCulloch) regarding possible partnership agreement with GaLTT
 - to Nuala Murphy and others about Elder Cedar signage
 - with Bryce Pirozzini (MoTI) regarding permit requirements for removal to trees from MoTI undeveloped ROWs
 - and phone discussion with Manager of Investing in Canada Infrastructure program
 - to Vanessa Craig (RDN Director) about potential proposal from RDN (for Electoral Area B) for Infrastructure program funding
 - to Vanessa Craig (RDN Director) about potential proposal from RDN (for Electoral Area B) for Infrastructure program funding

- responding to Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society requesting information about trail licence agreements
- discussions with GaLTT board members regarding possible timely letter of support to Gabriola Housing Society
- letter to IT Trustees and BC Housing in support of GHS housing project
- Discussion
- Phone discussions
 - with representative of Cortes Island Housing Society about trail licences
 - with Ken Gurr about Nature Stewards program

Planning/Meeting:

- Met with Chris van Ossenbruggen and Barry Moerkerken to assess Captain Ahab's Terrace and Town-Ho End community parks for trail development potential, followed by preparation of an assessment report with recommendations and submission to Vanessa Craig (POSAC Chair) for consideration by POSAC.
- Met with Accessibility Committee to discuss possible grant application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to complete Phase 2 of Gabriola Sands PP accessibility project
- Provided input to document compiled by Anne Landry summarizing conservation threats/priorities requested by the Housing Advisory Planning Commission
- Provided proposed draft text to RDN for new entrance signs to 707 Community Park

8.2 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month. They were:

- 7 Five-year memberships: 1 individual, new; 1 family new, 5 family renewing.
- 8 One-year memberships: 4 individuals, new; 4 family, renewing.
- Monthly donors: 1 new individual.
- **Current total members = 226** (10 expired)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 17 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Frank Shoemaker, seconded Jenni Gehlbach to accept the listed 15 applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

8.3 COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Gehlbach and Johnston reported:

Record keeping:

- Writing and distributing agenda, meeting notes, and minutes.
- Shared document electronic and paper filing
- Facebook—plenty of action on our Facebook and Instagram pages with Winter Walkabout photos.
- Emails
 - Weekly emails to members about the Winter Walkabout with continued good response.
 - Emails to volunteers about the need for volunteers for complex shallow digging at Pilot Bay in mid-January, supervised by an archeologist.
- Design and writing
 - Article written about the upcoming work at Pilot Bay
 - Compiling documents to be sent to members for the AGM
 - Walkabout newspaper ad design and placement
 - AGM ad design and placement
 - Continued work on GaLTT's annual Newsletter
 - Continued work on Board's Presentation for the AGM, including sourcing appropriate images.

- Website
 - Updated Homepage, including AGM announcement and weekly Winter Walkabout posts.
 - Uploaded the complete PDF of 2020 Board minutes to the Board page on the website.
 - Continued development of the Digital Trails Atlas
 - Preliminary discussions about finding a professional to help port the website over to a template.
- Work for Executive Committee— Continued work on Policies & Procedures for Exec Committee

8.4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE. When she leaves the Board at the AGM, Skinner will be happy to remain as Chair of the Community Engagement Committee. Posthuma volunteered to become the Committee member responsible for reporting to the Board. Skinner reported:

- **Great Winter Walkabout:** Our weekly releases of details about walks on lesser-known trails continue to bring positive feedback. Due to extremely wet weather making walking less pleasing and some trails almost impassable, the deadline for finishing six walks and journal submission has been extended to the end of February. The last walk description will be released on February 3.

ACTION: Community Engagement committee to encourage participating non-members to become GaLTT members and/or to make a donation to help defray the cost of this initiative (approx. \$550 more than the \$800 grant.)

- **Washed up dock:** a DeCoursey Drive resident reported to us a washed-up dock or swimming raft on the rocks in Taylor Bay that is breaking up and shedding Styrofoam to the beach. Skinner has contacted Gabriola Island Shore Keepers Association (GISKA) and they asked numerous government bodies and salvage companies for help but may end up removing and deconstructing the dock themselves. GISKA plans to carry out an inventory of beach debris on Gabriola and would like to use the map developed for our public shore access subcommittee.

ACTION: Johnston to arrange to get a copy of our shore access map to GISKA.

- **Committee membership:** Skinner reported that frequent volunteer Alison Thomas would like to be on a GaLTT committee—either Community Engagement or Trails.

ACTION: When the new board is in place, committee chairs to follow up with Alison Thomas about volunteer opportunities.

- **Social media strategy:** GaLTT will participate in this project sponsored by Gabriola Chamber of Commerce and Lou will be their main contact and will engage relevant board and committee members for involvement when needed.

ACTION: Johnston to liaise with the Chamber of Commerce re this project

- **Nature Stewards program:** Ken Gurr has been in discussion with the Kate Emmings, manager of the islands Trust conservancy and is investigating possible funding. He expects to have a second draft of the information sheet for landowners ready by mid-February.

8.5 INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT: Gunn reported that winter work parties have been cancelled due to Covid-19. They will be started as soon as possible in compliance with public health guidelines.

- **Drumbeg and Gabriola Sands Provincial Parks:**
 - **Covid funding:** Ministry of the Environment (BC Parks) has an agreement that allows them to hire through BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF). The money goes to BCCF, they manage the hiring process, their insurance covers the workers, and BC Parks pays a certain percentage to them for contract management. An additional percentage covers insurance if the workers don't have it. The net amount available for the Drumbeg work once the contract administration/insurance has been paid is \$1000 to \$1500. The work must be done March 31.

The process is still being clarified. There may be a brief required/safety training, but unlikely in this case because no machinery/chemicals are used. Gunn had previously discussed options with Skinner and prioritized what they would like to see done. After considering various factors, Erica McClaren would like to focus on Daphne and holly removal in Drumbeg.

- **Reporting to BC Parks:** Our annual work plan is due in February and a three-year work plan is due in April.
- **Tree limbing at Drumbeg meadow (PEF funding):** About \$1200 is left in the PEF funding and this will be used for limbing some of the low Douglas-fir branches in the Drumbeg Park meadow will occur on February 2 or 3. They will likely do a small amount this year using handsaws. BC Parks wishes to carry away the chipped debris for disposal in Nanaimo rather than using it on Gabriola.

ACTION: Invasives Committee to manage the PR on Gabriola about this limbing activity, emphasizing that it is part of a BC Parks initiative that is attempting to restore and preserve the Garry oak meadow.

- **Year-end volunteer totals:** Although many more hours are put in by volunteers outside of work parties, there have been 627 volunteer hours of work removing invasive plants. Of this, 368 hours were worked at Drumbeg removing mostly broom and Daphne, and including prepping and seeding of small test plots. Also 32 hours of work removing Daphne at Twin beaches.
- **Debris disposal:** Gunn has continued to investigate disposal options. Since her last report she has talked to:
 - Scott Colbourne, Islands Trust
 - Julie Sperber and Jeff Strohm (by email) as per Colbourne's recommendation and subsequently emailed with Strohm about a yard waste composting operation on Gabriola that he was exploring--he has since got a job with BC Conservation Foundation on Vancouver Island and isn't considering this idea but is interested in pursuing options.
 - Ben Routledge, Superintendent of Scale and Transfer Services, who wrote the relevant bylaw. Invasives technically not allowed at Cedar as garden waste – fall under special handling at much higher price. Posted the info and prices on FB.
 - RDN contact, Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, recommended by BC Parks didn't have a lot more to offer. He said that for Broom:

"we have worked with the Broombusters to coordinate the removal offsite and disposal with a contracted landscape company. In past years, we have sent broom directly to Harmac to be used as hog fuel to help run the electrical generation plant they have onsite. This became costly for us to do alone and now we work through our contracted landscaping companies who are responsible for final disposal. In more remote park locations, we have established composting sites where the invasive we are dealing with is piled and tarped to allow it to 'cook' and decompose. Perhaps there is a site on Gabriola where invasive could be sent to for composting?"

Gunn noted that BC Parks is not open to composting in parks on Gabriola.

In addition, Gunn reported that she wrote an article for The Sounder about tackling Daphne removal; met with a GAC representative to assess invasives at the their property; responded to emails about invasive removal. She also made phone calls with a potential board member or volunteer; with Landry about invasives and about conservation re HAPC; and with Ken Gurr about Nature Stewards and reviewing a draft document.

8.6 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Landry reported that this committee:

- started reviewing the current Elder Cedar S'ul-hween X'pay Management Plan.
- worked with others on revisions to trailhead signage for Elder Cedar S'ul-hween X'pey.

- provided comments on Ken Gurr's Nature Stewards info sheet.
- submitted committee activity slides to Nola for the AGM.
- analysed further the conservation mapping workshop results, looking for properties for potential conservation. Nola and Anne checked out an 11-acre property with covenant potential.
- continued work on revising Policy 9 to comply with new Standards and Practices.
- responded to a request to GaLTT from the Housing Advisory Planning Commission to provide a list of *Major Conservation Threats/Priorities for Gabriola* to be used during up-coming consultations with Gabriolans on affordable housing. The committee and other board members developed a list which was submitted to the HAPC. It aligns well with GaLTT's current work.

8.7 TRAIL COMMITTEE: Moerkerken reported that there were no organized work parties in December due to Covid-19. Activities by the Committee included:

- Moerkerken and Danenhower checked several trails for flooding after the recent rainy days to review the scope of work required for planned work parties in the upcoming year.
- Don Machell reported trimming trails at: Richie Rd/Horseshoe to Barrett; Elder Cedar Nature Reserve; all Cox Park Trails (Yogi, Mallet Creek plus accesses to Taylor Bay, River Place and Bruce Lynn); Kin Road to Haven Woods (Centre Trail). He estimated that over 30 miles of trails were trimmed last year.
- Fallen trees have been removed from trails at Joyce Lockwood Community Park, Haven Woods, and from 707 Community Park.

8.8 ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE: Danenhower reported that the Committee is completely focused on the Pilot Bay Project. We are actually still waiting on final approval from Brodie to proceed (he is waiting on final approval by BC Parks of the vegetation impact report that we submitted). Committee decided to go ahead with our plan to start on January 17 to remove salal to enable widening the trail in from the South parking lot. Archeological digging will begin January 18, at 8 am. There will be four shifts of 4 volunteers each, digging at two locations at a time (as instructed by the Archeologist). A call for GaLTT volunteers has resulted in 11 people offering to help so far, which is pretty good, given that it is Monday, and people will have to either sit on the ground or kneel, while they dig. Several people from the board/accessibility committee will be on site all day, so probably the work can be done in one day. He has asked the Lions for help—Dixon wanted more information which Danenhower is supplying. Gehlbach wrote an article for the January 13 edition of The Sounder explaining what we're doing.

9. IN CAMERA: None.

10. Adjournment: Before adjourning, the board again thanked Skinner and Danenhower for their very busy and productive service on the Board for the last four years.

MOTION: proposed by Gehlbach to adjourn at 8.45pm. CARRIED.

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday February 9, 2021, by Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Rebecca Furnell (for the first hour), Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

1. The new board convened at 6.30pm to chat informally and introduce ourselves. At 7pm Brockley called the meeting to order and formally welcomed the new board members. He noted that they had received an orientation package and that he and Lou Skinner will take them on an orientation tour soon to view trail licences, covenanted properties, etc. Board will try not to use too many confusing acronyms at first and will give brief background when introducing a topic.

Brockley commented that the AGM went well with a large attendance. He thanked the Board for their committee presentations, which were interesting and well organized.

2. AGENDA:

MOTION: Proposed by Lars Hulstein, seconded by Frank Shoemaker, to adopt the amended agenda as circulated by Rob Brockley. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Barry Moerkerken, to accept the minutes for the January Board meeting as circulated and amended. CARRIED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter to Royal Vancouver Yacht Club re Tugboat Island (for *in camera* discussion).
- Letter to BC Parks re Saturnina Island.
- Letter to MLA Doug Routley re shoreline damage at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park.

5. **ELECTION of OFFICERS:** Brockley reported that no current board members were willing to take on the role of President at present, and since there was occasional precedent for a President to serve a three-year term, he was willing to remain as President for one more year. The other current executive officers are also willing to continue in their roles.

MOTION: proposed by Pat Jacobsen, seconded by Hugh Skinner that the existing Executive Committee continue for one more year:

- **President: Rob Brockley**
- **Vice-president: Nola Johnston**
- **Past President: Anne Landry**
- **Treasurer: Frank Shoemaker**
- **Secretary: Jenni Gehlbach**

CARRIED

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Brockley reported re:

Administration

- Assembled and distributed orientation materials for new Directors
- Reviewed draft newsletter
- Completed Public Trails on Private Property Survey for the Outdoor Recreation Council.

Correspondence and phone discussions:

- Notes and emails:

- with incoming Directors, including sending Director Consent forms and “Expectations for Board Members” documents.
- Following our letter to Doug Routley MLA re shore erosion at Pilot Bay, we received a response from the Deputy Minister responsible for BC Parks who advised that this is a problem being experienced in many parks, that limited funds are available for mitigation efforts, and that other locations currently have higher priority than Gabriola Sands. Brockley followed up with a phone conversation with Erica McClaren (BC Parks Restoration Specialist) in which we discussed possible solutions, which would likely require an initial step of undertaking a Wave Study by a qualified coastal engineer. The study would hopefully identify possible options for mitigation utilizing Green Shores design features. We discussed the possibility of a future GaLTT-BC Parks cost-sharing mitigation project.
- with community members and Directors regarding the recent sale of an undeveloped property on Wildwood Crescent through which runs a popular, but unlicensed connector trail to Dole Road. The small size of the property will likely make it difficult to retain the trail after the lot is developed, but GaLTT will contact the new property owner, and adjacent landowners, to see if a way can be found to retain public access through formal trail licence arrangements.
- Emails and discussions with Nick Doe and Directors regarding Ecological Protection zoning for Coats Marsh Regional Park. The owners of the park (RDN and The Nature Trust) have expressed opposition to the LTC’s wish to include the property within the bylaw. GaLTT expressed strong support to the LTC for including both Burren’s Acres and Elder Cedar Nature Reserve in the EP bylaw because ecological protection is clearly meant to be the highest priority for the entirety of both properties. The interconnected trail system with 707 Community Park makes EP zoning for Coats Marsh RP problematic. The existing wide trails in Coats Marsh RP do not appear to be a threat to the ecological integrity of the park and thus the continued low impact recreational use of them should not be assigned secondary importance. However, GaLTT has strongly expressed to both the RDN and the LTC our desire that actions be taken to provide greater protection to the marsh itself and to other sensitive ecological areas within Coats Marsh Regional Park and that GaLTT is willing to assist with the work.
- emails and discussions with Suzanne Campbell and Executive about GaLTT’s conservation work and increasing GaLTT’s Facebook presence regarding conservation.
- to Doug Cunnian (local director of BC Marine Parks Forever Society) re the potential purchase of Saturnina Island for a Marine Park. A subsequent letter to BC Parks (drafted by Anne Landry) expressed our support for purchasing Saturnina Island as a BC Marine Park
- to MoTI inquiring about permits for installation of resting benches on MoTI public shore accesses. Their response indicates their willingness to allow bench installations under permit. We had earlier received an email from a community member requesting GaLTT’s help to find a location for a memorial bench for her recently deceased spouse. Brockley asked Hugh Skinner to develop a list of potential bench sites based on data from the recent assessment of Gabriola’s shore accesses and he has done so.
- Email response to complaints about trail damage by e-bikes and other users especially during very wet weather.
- Email response to query re boardwalk building in Elder Cedar.
- Conversations with Ken Gurr re Nature Stewards program.
- Conversation with local landowner re potential conservation covenant (to be discussed in camera)
- Phone discussions with RDN staff re:

- a safety issue on the River Place bridge in Cox Community Park. RDN staff subsequently installed an additional strip of metal lathe on the bridge deck and installed posts and signs to warn users of slippery surface
- completion of Phase 2 of the 707 wayfinding CP system. The GaLTT-designed signage plan was finalized several months ago and is still awaiting final RDN approval so that the new signs can be manufactured and affixed to the new posts installed by GaLTT volunteers over a year ago
- the need for drainage improvements on several main trails in the 707 CP. Some backhoe work was undertaken in early January which has improved the situation. However, standing water is still an issue due to difficult topography which prevents complete drainage. The addition of large amounts of surfacing material and/or grading may be a necessary follow-up activity. An alternate solution might be to formally re-route trails around the mudholes. I subsequently sent an email to GaLTT Directors explaining the recent drainage work
- Planning/Meeting:
 - AGM planning with Executive, including practice session.
 - Discussion with Lou Skinner about orientation tour for new Directors.
 - Zoom meeting with Suzanne Campbell and a group of Gabriolans concerned about conservation issues.
- Research whether motorized off-road vehicles (e.g., dirt bikes) are allowed on Provincial and Federal lands on Gabriola Island: Brockley was unable to find official confirmation of this on any website, a subsequent phone conversation with Peter Lloyd (contractor who looks after the Federal lands on Gabriola) indicates that off-road vehicles are not allowed on Federal lands. The use of off-road vehicles is likely allowed on lands owned by the Province of BC, although most of these lands on Gabriola are intermingled with Federal lands and are included with the Federal lands in the proposed treaty settlement with the Snuneymuxw FN.

6.2 TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. Shoemaker has not yet prepared the formal monthly financial statement for January. He is setting up a working system with our new bookkeeper. He reported that our finances are in good shape: we have about \$114K in the bank, (80K in a GIC and the rest divided between an interest-bearing a/c and our operating a/c). In January we received about \$1400 and spent about \$760.
- b. Signing Officers: Since Lou Skinner has stepped down from the board, new signing officers are needed:

MOTION: proposed by Frank Shoemaker seconded by Jenni Gehlbach that as of February 9, 2021, the signing officers for GaLTT be Rob Brockley, Anne Landry, Nola Johnston, and Frank Shoemaker. CARRIED.

ACTION: The four designated signing officers to go to Gabriola Branch of CCCU as soon as possible with a copy of this motion to sign the needed paperwork to be signing officers.

- c. Book-keeping agreement: The proposed contract with Banford Book-keeping Services (Victoria Banford) is severable with 30 days' notice. The required work is very unlikely to take more than five hours each month.

MOTION: proposed by Frank Shoemaker seconded by Nola Johnston to approve a contract beginning January 1, 2021 for book-keeping services between GaLTT and Banford Bookkeeping Services (Victoria Banford) for a monthly fee not exceeding \$140 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$30. CARRIED.

6.3 MEMBERSHIPS:

Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month. There was an unusually high number of new applicants this month.

- 6 Five-year memberships: 2 individual, new, 1 individual renew; 1 family new, 2 family renewing.
- 26 One-year memberships: 11 individuals, new; 1 individual renew; 7 family, new; 7 family, renewing.
- Monthly donors: 1 new family.
- **Current total members = 251** (49 1-S; 43 5-S; 49 1-F; 69 5-F; 6 lifetime; 36 monthly)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 18 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

DISCUSSION: (1) The increase this month in new applicants may be due to our recent Facebook invitation to support us beyond “friending” or “following”. It may also be due to our increased conservation efforts.

(2) Our bylaws require us to formally accept membership applicants.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded Kerry Marcus to approve the listed 33 applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

6.4 COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

- Google Drive:
 - Johnston attended a Centre for Land Conservation seminar and has put the information from it on our Google Drive.
 - She explained to new board members that our Google Drive workspaces are used for storing and sharing documents. She clarified that under Canadian law and according to our privacy policies, personal data and other sensitive material may not be stored on this Drive because the servers are international.

ACTION: New board members wishing to access our Google Drive files to contact Johnston.

- Record keeping.
 - Writing and distributing agenda, meeting notes, and minutes.
 - Shared document digital and paper filing
- Facebook and Instagram
 - Plenty of action continued on our Facebook and Instagram pages with photos and comments re Winter Walkabout as well as invasives teamwork on Daphne.
 - Made an appeal to the over 600 followers on the GaLTT Facebook page to support us with memberships or donations.
 - Monitored community bulletin boards for GaLTT-related discussions.
- Emails
 - Emailed the last two weekly messages about the Winter Walkabout with continued good response.
 - Emailed to volunteers about Daphne removal work parties at Whalebone Community Parks, at Twin Beaches, and at Clamshell trail to South Road (to protect the patch of chocolate lillies).
- Design and writing
 - Continued work with Ken Gurr on a brochure for the Nature Stewards program, which will be distributed generally and through local realtors, encouraging property owners to steward their land appropriately for the local ecology.
- Website
 - Updated Homepage, Board page, and Policies page according to recent Board developments.
 - Continued discussions about planning a major change to the website, including identifying a possible professional who might help with technical work when porting the website to a new template
- Work for Executive Committee
 - Continued work on Policies & Procedures for Exec Committee.

6.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Posthuma reported for Committee Chair Lou Skinner. He commented that we can feel very proud of this GWW community effort which also involved our local elementary students making 12 different starting point decorations. He will be glad to hear Board's ideas and suggestions for the spring and summer walks to pass on to Lou.

- **Great Winter Walkabout (GWW):** The last walk description was released on February 3. All trail markings will remain up until the end of February since many participants delayed walking because it was so wet and muddy. The prize draw for those who submitted trail journals will take place at North Road Sports on March 1. Community response has been excellent, so kudos to Lou Skinner. Jacobsen commented that she had met people on those trails who hadn't walked the trail system before and were not "hikers". A new group of trail-walkers were being helped through a very tough winter. Committee would like to understand better the response:
 - One reason for the prize is to estimate how many people participated.
 - We are considering a survey to find out how people heard about it? (newspaper, Facebook, membership emails, friends, etc. (This is important because newspaper adverts are expensive)
 - To what extent was Covid a factor in its success?
 - Maybe now we should encourage "new" walkers to explore the ABC trails on our map.
- **Shore clean-up:** Community discussions and interactions with Gabriola Shorekeepers and government bodies continue about shore clean-up of styrofoam debris and washed-up boom logs. It is difficult to pinpoint responsibility for clean-up.
- The committee has participated in a **Social Media planning project** organized by the Chamber of Commerce to provide a skill-based experience for under-employed youth.
 - Student Amelia Emerson is working with us and will provide advice for improving our Facebook and Instagram presence.
 - Committee chairs from communications, conservation, trails, community engagement, and invasives will continue to identify the purpose of our posts and the logistics of creating a content calendar
 - We need to better understand who has administrator privileges and develop a policy for social media use.
- **Intergenerational Land-based Learning for Reconciliation** project has had discussions about signage projects. They used the Seal Bay Regional Park (Comox Valley) as an example. Lou Skinner is following up on some concerns raised by Elder Bill White and will share this information with Communications Committee.
- **Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society (GILSS):** Posthuma attended the inaugural AGM of GILSS which hopes to hold land for various types of community use (rather than just for conservation). These include such things as affordable housing and farming. He hopes to bring more detail to the GaLTT Board after the first regular GILSS board meeting. Brockley clarified for our new board members that upon GaLTT's recommendation, GILSS has removed conservation as one of their objectives because it may have resulted in confusion in the Gabriola community since conservation is already a clear part of GaLTT's mandate.
- **Addendum to committee report: Possible Native Plant Nursery**—Shortly after the board meeting Lou Skinner emailed to Executive Committee that she is discussing with Gabriola Commons whether there is space on their grounds to serve as a transfer spot for native plants that have been removed when land is cleared for a house. The plants could subsequently be used where GaLTT or The Commons clears invasive plants or by homeowners wishing to make native plantings around their homes. Discussions continue.

6.6 INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gunn reported that Daphne removal work parties have been cautiously restarted because BC Parks allows distanced group work on foliage removal.

- They recently organized work parties in the Whalebone Community Parks (22 volunteers), at Twin Beaches (27 volunteers), and there will also be one next Sunday on the Clamshell Trail to South Road.
- Committee continues to work on options for invasives disposal:
 - One new option is to use a shredder as opposed to a chipper. They cost about \$15K.
 - RDN and MOTI recommend just throwing removed invasives into the bush to rot down.
 - Another option is to rent a large container and pay to have it hauled away when full. This is very expensive (approx. \$1K per load).
 - Haulers who deal with food waste may be hired (also expensive)
 - Discussions are ongoing with GIRO who are considering garden waste disposal—space is a problem at the site.
 - Invasives Species Council may be a source of funding for disposal.

6.7 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (CC): Landry reported as follows—

- Shoreline erosion: The letter Rob sent to MLA Doug Routley about concerns with the significant recent storm/high tide damage at Pilot Bay was a follow-up to a similar letter sent to BC Parks in October 2019 that did not receive a reply. A reply to the Doug Routley letter was received on February 2, sent from Jim Standen, ADM, BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division. This response (circulated to the board) was disappointing, basically saying that with limited funds, Gabriola Sands PP will not receive funds for protection measures at this time. The committee will discuss this further and suggest next steps to the board.
- Tree-cutting and trail-loss concerns near Dole Road: Concerns about the development of undeveloped lots and tree-cutting continues to be discussed on the community FB bulletin boards. A discussion grew out of the recent sale of an undeveloped lot on Wildwood that has an important trail connector to Dole Road. While the trail connector is important, it also crosses two other private properties before coming onto the ROW on Dole, making it difficult to make it legally accessible to the public (via trail licences). Concerned Gabriolan Suzanne Campbell invited others to join a discussion on what could be done to protect more land and see fewer trees cut down.
- Two new committee members: Following a Zoom meeting, Suzanne Campbell has agreed to join the Conservation Committee to do fundraising for GaLTT's Land Acquisition Fund (recently depleted due to GaLTT's contribution towards the RDN purchase of the addition to the 707 Park). This is excellent news as we have been needing some fundraising talent. Anne also met with Carly McMahon, who will also be joining the CC and will be a good liaison with the Gabriola realtor community.
- LTC's Coastal Douglas-fir protection: A February 3 Sounder article outlines that the Local Trust Committee has shifted priority away from the creation of an Ecological Protection Zone to work on "better protection of Coastal Douglas Firs". It sounds like there are examples from other Gulf Islands that could potentially be adapted for Gabriola. This is good news, and the CC will follow this project and provide input as is deemed useful.
- Using social media effectively: Anne was on a Zoom call with Lou, Nola, Libby and social media student Amelia to discuss ways in which GaLTT could use social media more effectively. Amelia is putting together some ideas for us to review.
- Saturnina Island: Information has been circulated with the board about the exciting prospect that Saturnina Island might become a BC Marine Park. Initiated by the BC Marine Parks Forever Society, the BC Parks Foundation has now taken the lead and will put together a proposal to the current owner for purchase. GaLTT sent a letter of support to BC Parks and BCMPFS indicated the letter was helpful in gaining BC Parks' support. We also sent information to the Local Trust Committee trustees. If the owner agrees to the purchase, GaLTT will assist with fundraising. Stayed tuned.

- LTC task force survey re conservation as a housing issue: Conservation issues/priorities information that the CC prepared for the Gabriola Housing Working Group has been incorporated into their latest Sounder ad (February 3) and background material for their second community survey, focused on preserving biodiversity and water. The survey is open until February 16 and all are encouraged to fill out the on-line survey: <https://gabriolahousingmatters.ca/>. Committee organized donation of a pair of secateurs for the gabriolahousingmatters.ca survey draw.
- Conservation covenants:
 - We received a copy of the ITC Monitoring Report for the Bachmann Covenant.
 - Landry is corresponding with ITC on one potential conservation covenant and Rob sent a letter to a landholder about another potential covenant, and also talked to another landholder. We can give a few more details *in-camera*.
- Conservation funds
 - Meeting: Anne attended an on-line meeting about Conservation Funds. The meeting was sponsored by the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (GaLTT is a member). Some municipalities and regional districts in BC are establishing Conservation Funds, e.g., South Okanagan, Kootenay Lake. These tax-based funds can support non-profits doing conservation projects related to integrity of watersheds, climate resilience, conservation restoration, help with meeting climate action objectives, etc. Most participants were government planners interested in exploring this idea, which is separate from Parks Acquisition Funds that some municipalities and regional districts have. Tom Osborne from the RDN was on the call. Something to learn more about.
 - At the Board meeting Landry also noted that the Committee is discussing fund raising, and maybe also a membership-drive. The Saturnina Island proposal may generate general interest in conservation funding
 - Management Plan reviews are underway (under contract to ITC) for S'ul-hween X'pey/Elder Cedar and Coats Millstone nature reserves. There will be a public Zoom Open House sometime in February. The CC is preparing input for the Management Plan for Elder Cedar.

6.8 TRAIL COMMITTEE: Moerkerken reported that previously agreed work on split-rail fencing is delayed because of time-sensitive Pilot Bay work:

- There were three special project work parties at Pilot Bay:
 - Careful excavation under an archeologist's supervision and vegetation removal to widen and flatten trails in preparation for upcoming concrete and gravel placement
 - Reposition a picnic table to allow for larger table-top and install edging on the ocean side bulkhead and culvert for gravel containment.
 - Reposition the outhouse to allow for wheelchair access to the toilet
 - Concrete work was delayed until March because it is too cold.
- Ditching:
 - The ditch along the main trail in Cox Park from Taylor Bay Road to River Place was dug out.
 - Minor ditching was done at numerous locations from Joyce Lockwood CP to the waterfall
- Don Machell reported trimming trails at:
 - Circular loop thru Haven Woods
 - All trails within the Elder Cedar
 - Trails from the top of Lakehaven: loop extending W to Seymour, N to Degnen, NE toward Nelder's Pond and the Champlain Trail Loop NE of Wheelbarrel Nursery
 - Beach access trails from end of Daniel Way and just east of El Verano

- Miscellaneous trails through the centre of 707
- Fallen trees have been removed from trails
 - at Joyce Lockwood Community Park
 - at Jack's Dropper trail.

Brockley noted that he has recently received emails from several Gabriolans concerned about trail damage caused during this winter's extremely wet weather.

ACTION: Marcus said that she hoped that a reconvened Share the Trails Committee will address this issue from a public education perspective.

6.9 ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE: Landry, who is now the Board liaison person for this committee, presented Laurie Webster and Peter Danenhower's report which included a map of Gabriola Sands Provincial Park (Twin Beaches) with proposed trail, boardwalk, and cross walks marked. This project was identified in our Accessibility Survey as high priority.

ACTION: Landry to send a copy of the Accessibility Survey report to the new board members.

- Pilot Bay project: working as agreed in the terms of the Park Enhancement Funding for this project is our main focus. The PEF funding must be spent by March 31. We originally agreed to contribute \$3000 to the project with most of the work being done either by our Trails Committee or by the Lions Club. Several expenses (such as for the picnic table-top replacement and tool rental), have increased since our original budget was proposed. We are already \$150 over our estimated budget.

MOTION: proposed by Anne Landry, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach to increase GaLTT's funding for the Pilot Bay accessibility project by \$500 to \$3,500. CARRIED.

- Digging requiring an archeologist's supervision is complete (cost \$3,600) and her report received, with no problems reported.
- The picnic table and outhouse have been moved to their new positions on the concrete pads allowing for wheelchair access to BC Parks accessibility standards.
- It was hoped to extend the concrete pads by mid-February, but we must wait for warmer weather in in March. Approx. cost of concrete and installation \$400.
- Park Ranger Brodie Rundel has approved our proposed new table-top design using high-quality natural stained wood rather than brown painted cheaper wood. The table will cost \$1,100 (much higher than the originally expected \$300 for a simple painted tabletop) plus \$100 to move it.
- BC Parks will advise about the protective fence around the outhouse. A new accessible door latch is being sourced (possible approx. further costs \$150).
- Lions Club is scheduled to install all gravel paths on February 20. They will use a fleet of garden tractors with a bobcat to load gravel in the parking lot. Barry is arranging for delivery of about 22-24 yards of gravel. Cost of gravel and geofabric will be \$2,100. Trail committee is responsible for packing the gravel to wheelchair standard. Gravel compactor and generator will cost about \$200.
- The Lions Club is negotiating improvements to the park's parking lot to reduce standing water with Bob Rooks' construction company. The company can receive a tax receipt for the cost of the work from BC Parks Foundation. This will likely happen around April. The approx. \$3000 cost is not part of the project budget. BC Parks will be responsible for designating one disabled parking spot in each of the two lots.
- Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is including a captioned photo of the Pilot Bay project in this month's newsletter.

- Taylor Bay project proposal:
 - In a later phase of this project the committee plans to make an accessible path from the Gabriola Sands PP parking lot down to the Taylor Bay beach. The current proposed route runs through an area that floods badly in winter so the path will need to be board-walked almost the entire route to the outhouse area.
 - Cedar boardwalk approximately 5 feet wide will cost about \$50 per foot and about 300 feet will be needed. This does not include the cost of foundation engineering.
 - The final phase will be a switchback ramp down to the beach—a gradual grade (to accessibility standards) about 90 feet long. Likely at least half the ramp costs will be in design and engineering of the ramp’s foundation.
 - Since costs for this phase will be much higher than other parts of the project, external funding will be needed. Committee is preparing a “shovel-ready” proposal to use for grant applications. Grant money is currently available from the BC Government.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Approving GaLTT’s Ethics Statement:

MOTION proposed by Kerry Marcus, seconded by Frank Shoemaker to formally approve the Ethics Statement presented to Board by Executive Committee June 2020. CARRIED.

7.2 Nature tips information sheet. This brochure being developed by Ken Gurr is close to completion. He proposes to print 250-500 copies. He is getting a quote from Gallery Press and is looking for funding sources.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1: Committee assignments and mentors: Executive committee members will each act as a mentor to a new board member. Committees will state what they are planning and what resources they need and circulate to board members.

8.2: CLTA Standards and Practices: The Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC) requires that all members of LTABC accept the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices (now administered by the Centre for Land Conservation) as their guiding principles for governance and operations of the organization. Some public or private funders also ask for this confirmation by formal resolution or statement. This is not a formal accreditation program but is intended as a tool to assist Canadian land trusts to build capacity and capabilities.

MOTION: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Anne Landry that the GaLTT Board:

- **accepts the CLTA Standards and Practices as guidelines for operations of the organization**
- **commits to making continual progress toward implementation of the S&Ps**
- **agrees to participate in learning and assessment programs in co-operation with LTABC**
- **supports ongoing commitment to LTABC membership, and to growing its professional competence and excellence as outlined in their Standards and Practices. CARRIED.**

8.3: Bench installations on MOTI shore accesses. At the request of Brockley, MOTI has agreed, in principle, to issue permits to GaLTT for the installation of benches on approved public shore accesses. RDN charges people \$4K for memorial benches with a limited lifetime.

MOTION: Proposed by Hugh Skinner, seconded by Pat Jacobsen that GaLTT establish an ad hoc committee to develop options to potentially enable benches including commemorative benches, and to report back to the Board with findings on best practices, resources required, and GaLTT policies and practices that may need to be established. CARRIED.

ACTION: This new ad hoc committee will investigate the issues relating to installing resting benches at shore-access viewpoints and their MoTI undeveloped ROWs. Hugh Skinner to chair the committee. Pat Jacobsen and Sarah Kopjar are also interested in this and volunteered to serve on the committee.

8.4 and 8.5: Conflict of Interest and Sponsorship Policies: Discussion was deferred.

ACTION: Johnston to send the most recent draft to board members for their perusal and comments.

8.6: Gabriola Housing Survey: Board approved sending an email to GaLTT members about participating in this survey since it deals with preserving biodiversity and water issues with background material provided by GaLTT.

ACTION: Gehlbach to send Landry's message about the gabriolahousingmatters.ca survey to GaLTT members.

8.7: BC Parks Budget: This budget has been cut since the 1980s. The Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) is campaigning for it to be increased.

MOTION: proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded by Frank Shoemaker to write a letter to the provincial government expressing our support for increasing the BC Parks budget. CARRIED.

9. IN CAMERA: Anne Landry proposed *moving in camera* to discuss several properties that may offer opportunities for conservation protection.

10. Adjournment:

MOTION: proposed by Gehlbach to move *ex camera* and adjourn at 9.15pm. CARRIED.

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday March 9, 2021, by Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Allan Posthuma

1. At 7pm Brockley called the meeting to order. He mentioned that past board member Tom Cameron has been in hospital but will return home shortly after successful treatment.

2. AGENDA:

MOTION: Proposed by Anne Landry, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach, to adopt the agenda as circulated by Rob Brockley. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston, to accept the minutes for the February 9 Board meeting as circulated and amended. CARRIED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter to Doug Routley MLA asking for increased funding for BC Parks.
- b) Letter to Gabriola Souder about shoreline erosion at Gabriola Sands PP. (This was published as an article rather than a letter)
- c) Letter to Gabriola Lions thanking them for their gravel work at Pilot Bay.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

5.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Brockley reported re:

Administration

- Filed BC Society Annual Report
- Developed and distributed Director contact list, and assigned Executive mentors to new Directors
- Subscribed to Zoom account for GaLTT
- Completed online assessment tool on LTABC website regarding GaLTT's current compliance with CLTA Standards and Practices.

Emails and Phone Discussions:

- With RDN Director (Vanessa Craig) and RDN staff re potential property purchases; Capt. Ahab's terrace and Town-Ho end community park assessment; the 707 wayfaring system approval; strata right of way alignment for Cox Park addition
- with Stefan Yancey (MOTI) about ownership of gravel pit property on Gabriola
- with Laura-Jean Kelly (Gabriola Shorekeepers) about shoreline erosion at Gabriola Sands PP and an invitation to attend an upcoming Shorekeepers meeting and encourage working closely together.
- with Nikki Wright (SeaChange Marine Conservation Society) about shoreline erosion mitigation strategies using the Green Shores approach
- responses to several emails to info@galtt.ca regarding noise and damage caused by motorized vehicles on federal and provincial crown lands
- Planning/Meeting:
 - Attended meeting with Paul McNair (Exec. Dir., LTABC) to get instructions for participating in a test with five other land trusts of the updated "Self-Assessment Tool" regarding compliance with the CLTA Standards and Practices. GaLTT has accepted an invitation to participate in testing the tool by going through all 100+ practices and indicating what level of compliance or organization is at. It will require 4-6 hours of my time and will apparently garner GaLTT a \$250 grant.

- Attended five sessions of Saving Land 2021 sponsored by LTABC

5.2 TREASURER'S REPORT: Shoemaker had previously circulated the financial reports (monthly and year to date) with a brief explanation to help our new board members interpret them.

Our income during February was \$2310 and our expenses were \$3720. Current total assets on February 28 were \$115,557, of which \$80,146 is in a term deposit.

5.3 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

- 2 new five-year family memberships (5-F).
- 8 new and 1 renewed one-year family memberships (1-F)
- 1 new one-year individual membership (1-S).
- **Current total members = 262** (49 1-S; 44 5-S; 58 1-F; 70 5-F; 6 life-time members; 36 monthly)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 18 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded Kerry Marcus to approve the listed 13 applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

5.4 COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

- Print and digital record keeping (agenda meeting notes, and minutes) and filing.
- Social Media:
 - Participated in planning overview meeting with Amelia Emerson and continued discussions about control and content of GaLTT's FB page and Instagram page.
 - Johnston discussed with Tobi Elliott setting up a moderated conservation-issues discussion group on the platform "Discourse" rather than on FB.
 - Plenty of action continued on GaLTT's Facebook and Instagram pages with photos and comments re Winter Walkabout, invasives teamwork on Daphne, and the accessibility project at Twin Beaches.
 - Monitored community bulletin boards for GaLTT-related discussions.
- Emails to members and/or volunteers re: Great Winter Walkabout and survey of participants; Conservation Committee's announcement about Saturnina Island becoming a marine park; invasive Daphne laurel removal work parties; Chris Drake's Zoom presentation; and the new Native Plant Depot.
- Newspaper: helped to coordinate article/photo for Sounder about the Lions Club's accessibility work spreading gravel at Pilot Bay.
- Design and writing
 - Logo/sign for the new Native Plant Depot
 - Survey design re GWW participation.
 - Final work with Ken Gurr designing the Nature Tips brochure for the Nature Stewards program. 500 copies have been printed, some of which will be distributed by realtors to new Gabriolans.

ACTION: Johnston to send Gehlbach a pdf for digital distribution.

- Website: Current site updates to
 - Current site: updates to Homepage (event announcements and reports, and Native Plant Depot); Board page (Committee members); Trail Maps & Walks page to include the downloadable GWW route maps.
 - New site: Continued work to develop the new website. Restructuring is complete, as well as the first draft of its contents.

5.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE and GILSS.

Posthuma had nothing further to report for GILSS. He had previously circulated Lou Skinner's Community Engagement report. Skinner noted that several people on her committee do not "Zoom" so full meetings are not possible.

- **Great Winter Walkabout (GWW) wrap-up:** Final walk route was released February 2. 43 trail journals were submitted, and the draw winners were Nicole Taylor (backpack), Mary Lee Burns (headlamp), and Katherine Graf (headlamp). We hope a picture of the winners with Petra at North Rd Sports will be published in the Sounder this week.
- **Survey of GWW participants:** Johnston designed the survey, which was sent by email to our members who were asked to forward it to friends who participated. 56 people responded as follows:
 - 45% did all 12 walks; 25% did 8-11.
 - 75% heard about it from member emails; 37% from Instagram or Facebook; 25% word of mouth. (People could check more than 1).
 - 98% would have done it without a prize.
 - 44% would not submit a trail journal because not interested or missed deadline.
 - 77% downloaded the PDFs
 - 91% would like to have more walking challenges.
 - Most commented favourably on finding trails they didn't know existed, feeling a sense of community, and relief from pandemic restrictions.

ACTION—for Trails Committee: Many participants noted that the Dragons Lane public access has severe drainage problems.

- **Social Media planning project** organized by the Chamber of Commerce to provide a skill-based experience for under-employed youth. Discussions with Amelia Emerson will continue until the end of March. Committee chairs are discussing who should post, how often, and about what. They are investigating setting up an events calendar and whether a new FB page would be needed.
- **Intergenerational Land-based Learning for Reconciliation** project.
 - Karen MacDonald, the grade 4/5 teacher plans to do the Garry oak project planned for last spring in Drumbeig and GaLTT will be involved in working with kids there.
 - We may work with the kids at the school on broom removal.
 - With respect to park signage and ceremonies around its unveiling, Elder Bill White pointed out that it is important to welcome ancestors and make sure regalia and dances are appropriate to the territory.
- **Chris Drake Presentation:** The CE committee provided a Salt Spring Island gift card for the speaker.
- **Native Plant Depot,** co-initiative with Invasive Committee (see that report).
- **Chamber of Commerce Visitor Guide:** We should receive an email later this month about participating in the 2021 visitor guide, with a theme geared toward island ecology and being a responsible visitor. Only the 14 community organizations that are chamber members will be invited to participate
- **Hope Centre:** We are exploring the idea of helping Andrea McLuckie to develop a youth invasives team through which youth could develop skills. Donations could go to the Hope Centre, or they may wish to set up their own small business. Youth will be invited to register for future invasives workshops.

5.6 INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT Gunn reported a very busy month:

- **Work Parties:** Neighbourhood Daphne removal groups have worked in Queequeg CP, Clamshell-South Rd Trail (30 hrs); Twin beaches (12.75 hrs); Whalebone (10hrs). An invasives removal session in Robinson Woods is planned for March 15, with an introduction to the covenant by Landry.
- **RDN Parks/Daphne removal protocols:** Gunn has responded to a comment to Brockley by Chris van Ossenbruggen, Regional Parks Operations Coordinator, questioning our methods. No response

so far. She has reviewed Daphne removal protocols of various agencies, and 2 papers provided by BC Parks. Gunn reported to van Ossensbruggen the contact information of the commercial Daphne cutter who cut improperly and drove his truck into the park to retrieve it. The private contractor has still not removed the large infestation or removed the Daphne cut by volunteers.

- **Native Plant Depot:** This joint initiative with Community Engagement Committee will be housed at The Commons (next to the Gertie parking lot). Johnston has developed a logo to be used in messages and signage. Native plants may be dropped off by the public or salvaged by our team. Phyllis Fafard (local Botanist and Master Gardener) will provide planting instructions to be given out and posted on site. Now we need plants! The soft launch included letters to the Garden Club and Chamber of Commerce members, and an email to our members.
- **Workshops for small landscape businesses:** Because we wish to support and encourage residents to deal with invasive species on their properties, our goal is to create a list of yard-work businesses familiar with best practices for removing the “Big Four”— Daphne laurel, Scotch broom, English holly and English ivy. The list could be distributed to all households by mail so they may choose workers from this qualified list if they seek paid help. The first workshop on March 8 was full and more are planned over the next few months following a newspaper ad.
- **Research plots:** to research the best methods for dealing with invasive Daphne laurel, Gunn and volunteer Linda Hellenius got permission from landowners near Orlebar Point to establish four 4x4 square metre research plots marked out by coloured tape. Research will continue for two years. In Plot #1, two people pulled out 50 smaller Daphne that was not part of the research, and then used a variety of recorded methods to pull 187 stems of medium to large Daphne. Lots of good educational interaction with passers-by. She has shared lessons learned about “the Big 4” with Erika Bland, Lands Manager, Denman Conservancy Association, and lessons learned on Denman and Hornby.
- **Drumbeg Provincial Park:** We have decided to use the park enhancement funding to buy tools. On-going discussions with BC Parks staff on various issues including hauling away Daphne laurel and English holly culls. At their request, Gunn met with archaeologist and Snunéymuxw Elder to map out extent of *Vinca* infestation at Drumbeg, which has spread throughout the forest and is rapidly infesting the meadow where broom has been cut. We likely will have to use chemical treatment.
- **Disposal of invasive plants this spring:** Gunn spoke with Mainroad supervisor about the MOTI site behind the South Firehall and met on site with Will Sprogis. We have an agreement among the parties to use this site for invasives disposal this year. The fire Department will use the pile of material for fire practice in Spring and Fall. Various common goals were discussed with the parties and there will be lots of opportunity to work together in future. This is a major development.
- **Chris Drake Presentation:** Brockley hosted this Zoom presentation for GaLTT members about invasives removal and replacement with native species, including his work in Elder Cedar. Drake is owner/operator of Coast Alive Recreational and Ecological Services. 26 computers logged in, and several requested to watch our recording of the event.
- **Committee work**—no committee meetings because some do not use Zoom. Allison Thomas Is a new committee member and Allan Posthuma will help strategize. Outreach by email to members and volunteers, and through the FB page.

5.7 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (CC): Landry reported that Pat Jacobsen has joined the committee, and their activities this month have been—

- **S’ul-hween X’pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve Management Plan Review:** After review by our Board, the Committee’s input to the Plan Review was sent to Nuala Murphy (ITC). Our comments were acknowledged and appreciated. The main outstanding issue is permitted uses in the NE corner of the nature reserve. There will be a follow-up discussion with Nuala Murphy about this. Landry represented GaLTT as a panelist at the February 22 Virtual Open House for the Management Plan Review, and also provided info about GaLTT’s work in the Reserve to Madrone, the contractor conducting the review for ITC.

- We received and circulated to the Board the 2017 Avian Survey Report for S'ul-hween X'pey.
- Posted information about Trees for Tomorrow program on the Facebook page. Planting will be from March to May.
- **Committee work:** Suzanne Campbell brought a series of fundraising ideas to a committee meeting for a fruitful discussion and now Executive Committee is discussing those ideas. Continuing discussions with Amelia Emerson and the Community Engagement and Communications Committees about using social media more effectively.

5.8a TRAIL COMMITTEE: Moerkerken reported:

- **Split-rail fencing:** another set of was built at Decourcey beach access #2.
- **Pilot Bay accessibility project work parties** to install forms for concrete at the picnic table and the outhouse, and to place Geotextile fabric on path prior to gravel placement. A Lions Club work party spread gravel along the path between the two parking lots. Moerkerken and Peter Danenhower were present to answer questions from the Lions.
- **Trail Trimming** by Machel at Tin Can Alley trail.
- **Fallen trees** have been removed from trails at Blue Heron CP access trail, Tin Can Alley trail, Joyce Lockwood CP, and Clarendon-Surf TL#004

5.8b POSAC: Brockley had previously circulated copies of his report to the February 22 POSAC meeting about GaLTT's recent activities, and his report about the RDN/GaLTT assessment of the site conditions at Captain Ahab's Community Park and Town-Ho End Community Park with recommendations regarding trail development there. He also circulated a full report of the recent POSAC meeting. Items related to GaLTT's work discussed were:

- **Trustee Scott Colborne reported that**
 - Ecological Protection Zoning has been set aside because the two owners of Coats Marsh Regional Parks (Regional District of Nanaimo and The Nature Trust) are not supportive of the rezoning at this time because of trails connectivity issues.
 - The Hornby initiative "Trees for Tomorrow" initiated on Hornby Island is now launched on Gabriola.
- **Re 707 CP:**
 - GaLTT's report to POSAC: RDN Director Vanessa Craig formally thanked Brockley for the report and for our contribution to the recent land addition to 707 CP and asked for an update on invasives disposal.
 - Brockley expressed our frustration at the delay in completing the wayfinding system in 707 CP. In follow-up emails, Craig said she had spoken with McCullough and hoped it could be completed ASAP.
 - 707 Community Park Fuel Management Prescription: Brockley reiterated GaLTT's recommendation that the RDN publicize all planned activities in 707 CP within the Gabriola community prior to commencing work
 - 707 Management Plan Review: Brockley asked whether the review currently included in the POSAC 5-year plan will be completed as scheduled in 2021. The RDN staff responded that it has likely dropped lower on the priority list due to other important projects (e.g., Village Way, Huxley CP).
 - Brockley reminded staff of GaLTT's informal agreement with the RDN that GaLTT would not submit proposals for any new trail work in the 707 until the current management plan was reviewed with an opportunity for public input. He also suggested that, due to the interconnectivity of the two parks, that it might make sense to coordinate a review of the 707 CP management plan with a review of the Coats Marsh management plan.
- **Re Capt. Ahab terrace and Town-Ho End CPs development:** POSAC previously directed RDN Parks staff and GaLTT to conduct an on-site assessment of the ground and stand conditions in the two parks and make recommendation for future park development. Chris van Ossenbruggen, Barry

Moerkerken, and Brockley conducted the field inspection on December 9, 2020 to coincide with wet ground conditions typically experienced during the winter months and submitted their report. The Director, RDN staff, and POSAC members supported our recommendation to develop a simple path through Captain Ahab's CP but to *not* do any trail work in Town-Ho End CP due to difficult ground and stand conditions. The neighbourhood delegation submitted a letter of support for this recommendation to POSAC. Staff indicated that the small scale of the project would allow it to be considered an operational project that could be completed relatively quickly once the Village Way project is completed. GaLTT will likely be asked to assist with the trail development.

- **Possible future projects for our Electoral area for 2022 budget and/or 5-year project plan.** It was agreed that previously suggested project such as dogs-off-leash and disk-golf areas be set aside until the additional lands to Cox Community Park (near the medical clinic) are received following approval of the Church-Spruce subdivision. Other possibilities discussed were:
 - Universal Access Trails: loop trail in 707 CP from Fisher road and accessible path to Blue Heron CP viewpoint
 - Joyce Lockwood Stairs to the beach. Staff said they still have had no response from SFN.
 - Outdoor Fitness Area or loop trail – Brockley reported that early last year, Rollo Senior Centre approached GaLTT about helping to create an outdoor fitness area with exercise stations on their property. We established a potential trail route at that time but do not know the current status of the proposed project.
- **Volunteer agreements:** Although using volunteers to participate in park improvements alleviates pressures on RDN staff, this is complicated by factors such as union contracts and insurance. Brockley pointed out that we had already requested that our current partnership be formalised in an agreement. Craig suggested that a formal agreement that was recently developed with a group in Nanaimo to maintain trails in Mt. Benson Regional Park could be used as a template

5.8c. ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE: Landry circulated the committee report, which welcomed new committee members Sarah Kopjar and Mary Mitchell. The project at Pilot Bay is proceeding well:

- The Lions successfully spread the **cart path gravel** on the trails we designated for accessibility. It looks and feels pretty good and solid to walk on and will probably support wheelchairs. We may need to smooth it a little bit and rain will help make it more solid. An article written by Dixon Kenny with great photo of the Lions at work appeared in the March 3 Sounder.
- **Table-top and benches:** Barry found at Arbutus very nice boards, much cheaper (under \$200) than finished wood. He is drying them and preparing them for finishing before installation.
- **Concrete forms** have been installed around the picnic table and outhouse and temporarily filled with dirt while waiting for the concrete with rebar to be laid as soon as it is reliably warm. A new latch, easier to manage by people with coordination issues, will be installed on the outhouse soon.
- Brockley is discussing improving the **parking lot** with Keith Kloosterbar, who will discuss with Mainland possibly getting this done as a community service.
- **Total costs to date** = \$5050. Outhouse \$150; Picnic table \$250; Archeological impact report \$2500; Cart-path gravel material \$1800; geo-fabric path underlay \$350 (two rolls remain and can be used at Taylor Bay eventually). The remaining work should cost less than \$500. Now that the funds have been spent, an invoice is being prepared for BC Parks for the \$4,500 PEF grant.
- **The archeological report** is available from Landry—no problems arose re our project.

5.8d Bench committee: Skinner reported that the subcommittee had met by Zoom and made two site visits since the last Board meeting. They are leaning toward using the recent request for a bench at shore access #100 at Stalker Road as a pilot project. Intent would be to fully recover costs as a minimum. If it is successful, the

committee would like to evolve this pilot project into a more structured GaLTT bench program. Preliminary discussions were held about:

- Options for bench design (concrete, metal, wood) and installation system (metal support frame or concrete blocks)
- Capital and maintenance costs
- Costs to bench applicant and possible application agreement
- There may be an opportunity to use local artisans' skills in design and construction.

Next meeting will focus on developing project objectives and further research and analysis.

5.8e Share the Trails committee: Marcus reported that this new committee met on March 3. They reviewed research requirements to understand what is permitted where. They also identified missing expertise needed on the committee. They discussed and assigned research actions for

- two current public trail-use issues: dogs out of control on the trails, and recently reported motorized off-road vehicles on trails.
- legislation and resource materials for shared-use issues available from other groups, such as Outdoor Recreation Council, Back Country Horsemen, and mountain bike groups.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Items # 6.1 and 6.2 (Conflict of interest and Sponsorship Policies)—Discussion deferred to the next board meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:** None scheduled.

8. **IN CAMERA:** Anne Landry proposed *moving in camera* to discuss several properties that may offer opportunities for conservation protection.

9. Adjournment:

MOTION: proposed by Gehlbach to move *ex camera* and adjourn at 8.55pm. CARRIED.

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday April 13, 2021, by Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell

1. Brockley called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. AGENDA:

MOTION: Proposed by Kerry Marcus, seconded by Pat Jacobsen, to adopt the amended agenda as circulated with the addition of Item 5.11 *Share the Trails* committee report. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston, to accept the minutes for the March 2021 Board meeting as circulated and amended. CARRIED.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs in support of law reform to help Islands Trust protect CDF ecosystems.
- Letter to Minister of Attorney General regarding need for new laws to ensure access to public assets surrounded by private property.

Brockley commented that no responses have been received so far.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS: previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized here.**

5.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE: Brockley reported that he just heard that the new wayfinding system for 707 Community Park is now approved and the new signage is in process (89 posts; 2-3 new notices per post!).

Administration

- Reviewed draft conservation policies
- Updated list of trail licence agreements and forwarded to Lars Hulstein and Barry Moerkerken

Emails and phone discussions: with Committee chairs as required for current projects, and

- with Directors and Communications Committee about streamlining our processes for recording our activities, including monthly committee reports and Board meeting minutes.
- with Committee chairs about GaLTT-related communications with government officials.
- with RDN about new trail alignment for Cox Park addition, downed trees in parks, and GIS/mapping
- with MoTI staff about the gravel pit property, and about donated labour and materials for the Gabriola Sands PP parking lot.
- with Gabriola Shorekeepers and Seachange Marine Conservation Society about potential collaboration on shoreline erosion projects
- with BC Parks and realtors about potential properties to be acquire for conservation.

Meetings:

- with RDN and landowner re new trail routes
- with ITC re Sul'-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve issues; also, re Nature Stewards funding.
- with Fundraising Committee, Shorekeepers, Nature Stewards Working Group.

- 5.2 TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Shoemaker reported that the transition to the new book-keeping process is going well. We are at the end of the first quarter of our 2021 year. The circulated schedule comparing revenue and expenditure for the quarter compared to budget for the whole year shows all committees doing well within their budgets.

- Receipts for the month were \$ 6,778 including two invoices to BC Parks totalling \$ 5,765. Our maps continue to sell well, realizing \$ 426 in the month.

- Expenditures were \$ 2,869 of which \$ 1,349 was for new tools for the Invasives Committee.

5.3 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

- 3 Five-year memberships: 1 family new, 2 family renewals.
- 7 One-year memberships: 2 individual renewals; 2 family new; 3 family renewals.
- **Current total members = 257** (49 1-S; 44 5-S; 58 1-F; 73 5-F; 6 lifelong; 36 monthly)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 18 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded Kerry Marcus to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

5.4 COMMUNICATIONS: The committee is working on improving coordination among committees in messaging our members, volunteers, donors, and the public. This is in the context of shifting public awareness toward our conservation mandate. Kopjar has agreed to join the committee, to be the backup minute taker and editor. During this month, we have:

- Agreed to a new procedure for distributing materials for the monthly Board meeting.
- Discussed how committees can share and design posting to social media in the light of Amelia's report and suggestions and competing needs for the public's attention.
- Designed signage and logos for Native Plant Depot and Nature Stewards, and a prominent "donate" button for the website.
- Designed the layout for the Nature Tips brochure to be distributed as an insert in next week's Sounder.
- Edited Nature Stewards article to be published in the Sounder and had preliminary discussions about other GaLTT articles and ads relating to Earth Day activities.
- Emails to volunteers about invasive species work-parties, and to members about the Native Plant Depot and the Nature Stewards.
- Creation of new naturestewards@galtt.ca email address forwarded to Gurr.
- WEBSITE: updates to current homepage; new "donate" button; links to new Nature Stewards webpage. Continued design work on the new website, including migration of some existing content.

5.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Committee Chair Lou Skinner reported:

- GaLTT will **volunteer at the Gabriola vaccination clinics** wearing GaLTT insignia
- We will participate in the **Farmers' Market** (if Covid allows) delaying our participation until 3 weeks after the whole-community vaccination clinic. It will be more expensive this year. Paula Gray has agreed to coordinate our volunteers.
- We have ordered 50 copies of **Habit Acquisition Fund's brochure** "Gardening with Native Plants" for distribution. The market table record sheet will be updated.
- **Native Plant Depot** signage will go up this week and outreach to Garden Club and the public for donated plants. A member has volunteered to water the plants.
- **End to end walk** (Silva Bay to the Surf suggested) is postponed to August/September.
- **Land based learning for reconciliation:** committee is working on posters about Snunéymuxw values and villages on Gabriola. There may be a broom-removal session with Grade4/5 class. In May.
- Amelia Emerson finished our **social media planning** project and has given us a final report. We will create a **calendar of events** and activities scheduled throughout the year by various committees to avoid overlapping needs.
- Board discussed two new local fund-raising opportunities for GaLTT's conservation agenda. If both are successful, we could use one for the Nature Stewards initiative.

MOTION 1: proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded by Libby Gunn that GaLTT participate in the "Round-up Program" at Nesters which will result in a minimum donation of \$1000. CARRIED.

MOTION 2: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Frank Shoemaker that GaLTT apply to participate in the Village Liquor Store's offer to donate a percentage of one month's sales to our work. CARRIED

5.6 INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gunn described various types of social media postings, and reported:

- **Native Plant Depot:** Gunn and L. Skinner dug up native plant seedlings for the Depot and planned signage with Johnston.
- **Invasive Species workshops for residents and landscape businesses:** advertised in Sounder.
 - Revised the 2-page illustrated brochure and had it printed for the workshops.
 - Compiled a **list of 11 landscapers** who attended the workshops, to be used in social media posts and advertised in a letter to all Gabriola mailboxes.
- **Research plots:** the five plots are now complete, the fifth requiring only its tarp.
- **Whalebone neighbourhood follow-up:** the neighbours have kept going with their Daphne removal. A private contractor dug up a large patch in Quequeg park and removed Daphne cut by locals. Gunn is in contact with RDN officials regarding future site management.
- **Work party record-keeping:** Committee is documenting on Excel individual and small group volunteer work hours. They are also modifying the sign-in sheets to make the process more efficient and Covid-safe.
- **EARTH DAY April 22:** An island-wide invasives pickup is planned for Earth Day. Also, from April 22 to 25, people may drop off their own cut invasives at the South Fire Hall— there will be a controlled burn later.
- **DRUMBEG PP:**
 - Chief ranger proposes a five-year volunteer agreement because they are happy with our work.
 - Discussions with neighbour who generally is sympathetic but requests that we ask people to NOT cut broom on their property. (Our work parties do not cut there.) Committee will meet with BC Parks staff about boundary definition and signage, and about using native vegetation screens.
 - **Contract with Covid funding:** Lynn Bowerman (contracted by BC Parks through BC Conservation Foundation) has cut Daphne laurel and holly in the park. We will remove the cut plants during Earth Day pickup.
 - Purchased tools for \$1349, of which \$1265 was covered by a PEF grant.
 - Periwinkle continues to be a problem. Awaiting an archeological report before action.
- **Outreach:** Worked with Communications Committee to promote activities, send out emails, make/restock posters, and respond to queries. They are planning an article about local neighbourhood work after the Nature Stewards publicity.
- Committee member Alison Thomas will spearhead **research and applications for funding opportunities.**
- **Social media:** Gunn noted that 70% of members of our FB page are women, mostly over 55. We now have over 600 followers. Because the community pages have several thousand members it is probably worth sharing some of our FB posts to the bigger lists.
- **Knotweed:** Marcus noted that there had been recent road work at South Rd and Cooper near the established knotweed patch and now there are many seedlings sprouting up that need controlling

ACTION: Gunn to send photos and discuss with Communications Committee re publicity about contractor Lynn Bowerman's work in Drumbeg removing Daphne etc., to be published in the Sounder if possible.

5.7 CONSERVATION: Landry reported that a new map showing the undeveloped properties on Gabriola is on the Gabriola Housing Matters website: <https://gabriolahousingmatters.ca/dev-potential-2021-draft-map/> This will be useful in determining priority properties for conservation. Also:

- The Ferry Cove property has sold to a private individual.
- OPs re land acquisition and conservation covenants have been reviewed by Conservation Committee and will be presented to the board for review and for approval at the May meeting.
- Following their successful 8-week long Webinar series, LTABC will host quarterly on-line networking sessions with the BC land trust community, starting in May, to discuss topics of common concern.
- They have started work on a Conservation Strategy (circulated with the Committee report).

ACTION 1: Committee to ensure that the language in the revised conservation policies is precise and consistent, particularly re should/shall/will/must.

ACTION 2: GaLTT to develop a new brochure that emphasizes our role in conservation.

Marcus noted that a landholder near Islands View Drive will soon be hauling lots of logs from his property to make farmland, so expect community reaction.

5.8 NATURE STEWARDS: Brockley reported that the new Nature Tips pamphlet will be an insert in next week's Sounder, with an accompanying press release. He is meeting on Wednesday with the Nature Stewards ad hoc committee (Landry, Johnston, Gunn, Skinner) and Ken Gurr to discuss 2021 work plans, budgets, and a contract for project coordination. GaLTT has received a commitment of \$5000 and in-kind donations from ITC for 2021 and an in-kind contribution from the Habitat Acquisition Trust for materials and training support. GaLTT will shortly apply for a RDN Community Grant and a grant from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund (which provides grants to volunteer organizations). GaLTT's application to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation was declined.

MOTION 1: proposed by Anne Landry, seconded by Nola Johnston that GaLTT establish a Nature Stewards Ad Hoc Committee consisting of the President and four committee chairs (Conservation, Communications, Invasives, and Community Engagement), to report directly to the GaLTT board. CARRIED.

MOTION 2: proposed by Anne Landry, seconded by Libby Gunn that GaLTT commits up to \$10,000 of GaLTT funds to support Nature Stewards in 2021. CARRIED

MOTION 3: proposed by Frank Shoemaker, seconded by Lars Hulstein that GaLTT's 2021 budget expenditure for Nature Stewards be increased from \$6,300 to \$10,000 plus the total amount received in outside grants and donations. CARRIED

MOTION 4: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston that Ken Gurr be offered a six-month contract to coordinate the Nature Stewards program, for fees (billed on an hourly basis) not exceeding a total of \$8000. CARRIED.

5.9 FUND RAISING: An ad hoc fundraising group (Jacobsen, Gehlbach and Suzanne Campbell) had circulated their meeting report about establishing a fund-raising strategy and action plan for GaLTT. Jacobsen reported that any fundraising action plan will completely depend on the Conservation Committee's strategic plan and related GaLTT priorities. We are not ready yet. Much more public awareness of our conservation role and the scope of needed conservation is required before we approach our members and the wider community for increased financial support. Public fundraising is very different and larger scale than increasing donations from existing supporters. A formal fund-raising committee and action plan would be premature before our wider conservation strategy is in place. Fortunately, there is currently no urgent fund-raising goal, so we have time to strategize. See Item 7.3. In the meantime:

ACTION 1: Board needs to explore available conservation funding.

ACTION 2: Shoemaker suggested we take some small fund-raising steps in the meantime like asking our monthly donors to increase their donations by a small amount (e.g., \$5 or \$10) since -many have not changed them for nearly 10 years

5.10 TRAILS

5.10a TRAIL MAINTENANCE: Moerkerken reported:

- **Special project work parties at Pilot Bay:** Installed safety flagging around concrete forms; put an easy-to-use latch on the accessible outhouse door; started refinishing the picnic tabletop and seats. Concrete work will happen this week now that it is warmer overnight.
- **Trail trimming:** Met with Don Machell and reviewed and clarified the extent of the three trails in the government lands that GaLTT maintains. We also discussed the extent of trimming on all trails.
- **Numerous tree falls** have been reported over every part of the island caused by the recent winds
 - Cox Community Park, Descanso Bay Regional Park,
 - Haven Woods, and Upper Berry Point-Clarendon
 - 707 Community Park, Federal lands, Robinson Woods
- Discussed with RDN personnel additional split-rail fence locations.

5.10b ACCESSIBILITY Landry reported that an invoice for \$4500 has been sent to BC Parks—the full amount of the PEF grant for the work at Pilot Bay. (See also Moerkerken’s Trail maintenance report of accessibility improvements at Pilot Bay)

5.10c COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES: Skinner, reported that the committee met twice and determined to build and install a pilot bench installation at Public Beach Access Point #100.

- **DESIGN**—It will have a commemorative plaque celebrating the life of a Gabriola resident. The committee wishes to encourage unique Gabriolan design using sustainable construction materials. Benches will have backs and armrests and will be secured to bedrock or concrete blocks. Supports will be wood or metal, and the design will incorporate slats with a suitable weather-resistant stain. A commemorative plaque will be fixed to the bench (design and wording to be determined)
- **NEXT STEPS**—Committee is discussing designs, suppliers, and workmanship with RDN, Wellington Foundry, and Gabriola Woodworkers Guild, and determining MOTI approval requirements for installation on rights of way.

5.11 SHARE THE TRAILS Marcus reported that the committee met, on March 25. Their objective is to draft a set of communication guidelines clearly stating the rights of access and usage rules (including dog-leashing laws) on various types of public land. Planning trail management to limit damage to the environment, especially fragile habitat, and improving signage to encourage responsible trail use.

- The committee is in contact with **Ajay Pradhan (Negotiations Policy Advisor)** to discuss policies regarding **Federally held Snuneymuxw lands**. Protecting the integrity of the land and maintaining good community relations are important concerns. They discussed limits and conditions for motorized vehicle access.
- **Acceptable uses of BC Crown Land**—
 - They are investigating ORV licensing and unauthorized trail-building on Crown lands.
 - They are seeking a BC Crown Land contract to confirm the status of ORVs.
- **Researching acceptable trail-use etiquette and who is permitted on which public trails:**
 - Where dogs, horses, and bikes are permitted in 707 Community Park, Sul’hween Xpey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve, Federally held Snuneymuxw lands and BC Crown lands.
 - What are Outdoor Recreation Council standards for multi-user trails.
- **Developing community communication and improved signage.** The committee is costing larger YIELD signs (width 12” and 18”) because the current 9” signs which are too small to be clearly visible when mounted high in trees.

MOTION: proposed by Kerry Marcus, seconded by Nola Johnston to approve expenditure up to \$500 to make larger triangular YIELD signs. CARRIED.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Operation Policies 4 and 10:

MOTION proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Kerry Marcus to approve GaLTT Operation Policy #4 (Conflict of Interest) and Operation Policy #10 (Sponsorship) as drafted on April 9, 2021 and presented to the Board. CARRIED.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1: Committee to create a fund-raising strategy: Board decided that it is too early establish a committee to develop a full fund-raising strategy. Our conservation strategy needs to be developed first. **No action.**

7.2: Coordination of communication activities—Johnston had drafted a preliminary communications coordination plan. We can use recognisable phrases like “You can make a difference” and “We can help” for many of our public interactions. Committees are encouraged to examine

- how their activities fit with GaLTT’s mandate and other activities
- how we will measure success of new ventures
- how to develop a sound media strategy.

ACTION 1: Communications Committee to continue to work with committee chairs to develop guidelines for public communication suitable to our full range of activities.

ACTION 2: Communications Committee to develop a brief survey of our members and of the public to examine their awareness of GaLTT’s conservation mandate and activities.

7.3: New Conservation Strategy proposal. Landry and Jacobsen drafted a preliminary conservation strategy, which was reviewed by the Conservation Committee and is now being presented to the Board for discussion. The strategy will help us focus our efforts for the greatest impact. Hugh suggested that having a vision in the strategy will be important. Where do we want to be with conservation on the island in 10 years? Board endorsed the idea of developing a full Conservation Strategy.

ACTION 1: Invasives, Community Engagement, Communications and Conservation committees are asked to review the draft strategy and make suggestions on where they see their role within the strategy; taking it to the next level of detail.

ACTION 2: Landry will continue to work on the strategy with input from the other committees. She will contact the other committee chairs to see how they would like to provide input.

MOTION: proposed by Anne Landry to move *in camera*. CARRIED.

8. IN CAMERA: Landry and Brockley discussed the status of two conservation protection possibilities, one other was unsuccessful.
9. ADJOURNMENT MOTION: proposed by Pat Jacobsen to move *ex camera* and adjourn at 9.15pm. CARRIED.

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday May 11, 2021, by Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Libby Gunn

1. Brockley called the meeting to order at 7pm, acknowledging that we were meeting on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish people.

2. AGENDA:

MOTION: Proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded by Lars Hulstein, to adopt the agenda as circulated. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Anne Landry, to accept the minutes for the April 13, 2021, Board meeting as circulated and amended. CARRIED.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter from GiftFunds Canada regarding donation to GaLTT from Konrad Mausch and Linda Harrison. Skinner noted that they have been long-time supporters of GaLTT, and Konrad passed away on April 28, following a long illness.
- Letter from Gabriola Recreation Society about successful grant application.
- Letter from Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs in response to GaLTT's letter about the Island Trust's need for more regulatory powers related to environmental protection measures.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

5.1 BC Parks partnership agreement: Brockley reported for Gunn that the following motion has already been approved unanimously by email. For this record:

MOTION proposed by Libby Gunn and seconded by Anne Landry by email on April 26, 2021 that the 5-year partnership agreement between GaLTT and BC Parks for invasive species removal in Gabriola's three provincial parks be approved. CARRIED.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1: ITC Partnership Agreement: It was noted that following endorsement of this partnership agreement, a contract will be needed. The funds (\$5K) will support the Nature Stewards program.

MOTION: proposed by Anne Landry, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach to approve the 23-month partnership agreement between GaLTT and Islands Trust Conservancy to promote voluntary private landholder actions to conserve natural habitat. CARRIED.

6.2: BC Park Enhancement Fund grant application: Brockley reported for Gunn. As required by the eligibility requirements, the proposal has already been discussed with BC Parks staff.

MOTION proposed by Pat Jacobsen, seconded by Nola Johnston that the Invasive Species Committee apply for the maximum (\$5K) 2021 Park Enhancement Fund grant from BC Parks to continue restoration work in the Drumbeg meadow and to assess planting/seeding needs at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park (Twin Beaches). CARRIED.

6.3: Community Gaming Grants. Landry reported that this initiative has no immediate impact on our work but will have a future effect. Money (\$140 million annually) is available to non-profit organizations through the BC lotteries system for programs and service delivery but not for projects. Grants can be up to \$100K and are typically about \$25K; they can pay up to 75% of program costs. Applications are not competitive, and the

earlier we apply the better. Landry noted that our Strategic Plan allows for paid staff, and maybe this funding could help to support things like the Nature Stewards program or invasives programs.

DISCUSSION:

- Jacobsen noted that there are implications for how we deal with our finances, since to be eligible, groups can only have 50% of the previous year's operating expenses on hand in unrestricted funds. We currently have substantially more than that.
- Shoemaker noted that he has a lot of experience with handling these types of funding applications and the necessary financial reporting. He also noted that in the current financial climate, locking funds into an endowment fund (where only the interest is available for use) may not be financially wise since interest rates are very low.
- Brockley noted that "Charity Works" organization is a very helpful non-profit who might guide us about suitable financial changes to be made at year-end.

ACTION: Executive Committee to continue investigating this funding possibility and our financial options. How might we spend such funds? What would we need to change with our finances to be eligible (e.g., unrestricted funds) and what would be the implications for GaLTT?

6.4: Communications Strategy Framework: Johnston outlined the issues about a shared communications plan now that several committees interact with the public and our members through various media.

MOTION: proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach that a working group be set up to consider implementation of a communications strategy. The committee to consist of Communication Committee, Executive Committee, and the Committee Chairs. CARRIED.

ACTION: Board members to send comments on Johnston's proposed strategy and implementation plan to her, noting what is missing, what is important, etc. so that Johnston can rework her proposals.

6.5 Policy draft re forwarding emails to our membership list: Following several recent requests for us to forward emails to our members, we need a clear policy about what is acceptable to distribute beyond our own messages

POLICY STATEMENT DRAFT:

Our policy is to limit email notices of third-party activities or opportunities to those with content specifically related to our mandate and to organizations and agencies rather than private individuals. However, we do encourage individuals to post their information to our Facebook page.

ACTION: Board members to send comments on Communications Committee's proposed policy so that a policy can be brought to the next meeting for approval.

6.6 Hiring helpers through the GICC work experience program. Gunn, Lou Skinner, and Moerkerken have discussed this initiative and have told Julie Sperber (of the Chamber) that GaLTT may be interested in participating. L. Skinner is willing to engage with the Chamber to set it up. GaLTT's potential involvement would be limited to the Fall (September–November). She would supervise the first part and Gunn would supervise the second part; working 4 hours per week. Their role will mainly be to help with invasive species removal. Moerkerken's trail volunteers are staying with very small (4-6) groups for now, so do not need extra workers. However, workers could be used for trail trimming helping Don Machel. Timetable to be determined.

MOTION proposed by Pat Jacobsen, seconded by Nola Johnston that GaLTT participate in the GICC Work Experience Program to be organized on behalf of GaLTT by Lou Skinner. CARRIED.

ACTION 1: Anne Landry to follow up with L. Skinner about proceeding with GICC on behalf of GaLTT to participate in this work experience program.

ACTION 2: Moerkerken to discuss details and possible work with Gunn and L. Skinner.

7. ***In camera discussions of (a) a potential collaborative stewardship group and (b) about a potential land acquisition in a significant location***

MOTION 1: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach to move *in camera* for discussion. CARRIED.

MOTION 2: proposed by Barry Moerkerken to move *ex camera*. CARRIED.

MOTION 3: proposed by Kerry Marcus, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach that GaLTT will offer to develop a stewardship agreement with BC Parks Foundation. CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS: previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized here.

8.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE:

Administration

- Contracted with Ken Gurr (Nature Stewards) and with ITC for work in Nature Reserves.
- Partnership Agreements with BC Parks (invasive species work) and ITC (conservation issues)
- Responded to complaints about photo use in Nature Stewards brochure.
- Reviewed draft conservation strategy document.
- Sent thankyou cards/emails to donors.

Emails and phone discussions:

- with Committee chairs as required for current projects and initiatives and with Ken Gurr (Nature Stewards and Landry (Trees for Tomorrow).
- with RDN staff re 707 CP signage project

Meetings & webinars:

- Met with Nature Stewards; BC Parks re property boundary issues; Trees for Tomorrow re planting in Elder Cedar Reserve.
- Attended Community Grant and LTABC quarterly networking webinars.

Research and reviews:

- Researched IT regulatory authority regarding tree-cutting and associated issues (e.g., agricultural land reserve, private managed forest land, development permit areas)
- Reviewed draft of revised Island Trust's Policy Statement and attended meeting with Trustees and others to discuss same.

8.2 COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES: Skinner reported that the bench committee is considering two general options:

- *Gabriola Woodworkers Guild:* With the assistance of Frank Shoemaker, the Galtt Benches Subcommittee has sent an "expressions of interest" email to Guild members, requesting responses by May 15, 2021. Submissions will be reviewed by committee after that date.
- *Wellington Foundry Parksville:* GaLTT can use one of the existing designs (e.g. Mountain Classic Park Bench) or request a customized design, including the option of requesting just the metal components, with GaLTT and / or the Gabriola Woodworkers Guild supplying the wood elements. In terms of the Wellington Foundry options, the Subcommittee supports an interest in minimizing the metal components and maximizing the wood attributes
- Committee is also developing two documents: an Application Form and a Terms and Conditions Agreement. Both will be signed by the applicant and by GaLTT. Applicants will be expected to pay the full cost (to be determined) when signing these documents.

8.3 COMMUNICATIONS: During this month, we have:

- Successfully tried our new method for distributing committee reports and other documents for our board meetings and are instituting a new agenda format for those meetings.
- Our social media posts are already demonstrating our society's changing focus from primarily trail building toward conservation; this change of emphasis is also noticeable in posts to the large community groups.
- Webpage changes:

- Home page, (work party calendar; event reports, outdated links fixed)
 - Covenants page, (reorder information and change contact information to conservation@galtt.ca forwarded currently to Landry).
 - Board page, (committee memberships)
 - Big tree registry, (corrections/deletions).
 - Notes of changes needed in the new website's contents.
 - Emails to members and volunteers re invasive species work parties, Nature Stewards, Native Plant Depot.
 - Draft article re Pilot Bay for the Sounder; final draft of OP 4 & 10 for posting; draft communications plan and strategy
 - Draft policy statement re forwarding emails to our membership list (see Item 6.5 above)
- ACTION: Executive Committee to indicate to Communications committee whether they wish to continue archiving printed monthly meeting minutes.**

8.4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Committee Chair Lou Skinner reported:

- VACCINATION CLINICS: 50 GaLTT members will **volunteer at the clinics** on May 18 and 20.
- MARKET: We will participate in the **Farmers' Market** (if Covid allows) starting July 3. Paula Gray will organize volunteers and we will promote Nature Stewards. We have received 50 copies of **Habitat Acquisition Fund's brochure** "Gardening with Native Plants" for distribution at the market.
- NATIVE PLANT DEPOT (**with invasives cttee**) She and Gunn visited Phyllis Fafard to learn about transplanting native plants. They also harvested plants from the Wildwood property and woolly sunflowers from Landry's home. It will be open but less active during the summer because it's not a good time to transplant. They hope to visit properties due to be cleared.
- BROOMCUTS: They have interacted with Gabriola Lions Club, Gabriola Housing Society, Gabriola Elementary School, Nanaimo School District, Gabriola Community Church re helping with broomcuts. An extensive calendar of local cuts has been published on the website and sent to volunteers.
- NATURE STEWARDS: They have approached Nestors and Village Liquor Store re: funding for Nature Stewards. They gave 30 more brochures to Laura Love for her Welcome Home program.
- PAT BURNS neighbourhood are expressing dismay over loss of a connector trail in their area and urge GaLTT to pursue a new trail licence(s).

8.5 CONSERVATION: Landry reported:

- **S'ul-hween X'Pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve:** The 2021/2 contract with ITC is signed. On April 24, a pilot planting of 20 Douglas-fir trees in the meadow replacing broom was done by Simone Levesque of Trees for tomorrow. Brockley has installed three new signs to clarify the rules (e.g., dogs on leash.) A new management plan is under review.
- ACTION: Board members to contact Landry if they wish to see a copy of the draft management plan and provide comments.**
- OP 9 and two new policies relating to conservation are under review. New work is underway re criteria for evaluating and selecting conservation projects. When more complete they will be circulate to the board for review.
 - Annual monitoring of the three covenants GaLTT holds or manages will be scheduled in the next couple of months.

ACTION: Board members to contact Landry if they wish to Participate in the covenant monitoring.

- A meeting is scheduled on May 15th with members of the Conservation Committee, Trail Committee and the Gabriola Museum Society to discuss ways GaLTT can assist with the McRae covenant and discuss a Trail Licence.
- Simone Levesque planted approximately 1,000 trees on Gabriola in April as part of the Trees for Tomorrow program. She will do more planting in the fall.
- Gabriola Island Health Care Foundation Health Report included information about the environment. They are working on a video to accompany the report and we are participating.
- Sonja Zupanec (IT planner) is reviewing recommendations from the Gabriola Housing Matters report to see how the LTC might follow up. There was a suggestion about donating unused densities to the density bank and a significant number of people responded favourably, so she thought GaLTT might have a role to play.

8.6 FUNDRAISING: Jacobsen reported that the committee is awaiting the board's developed conservation strategy before detailing our fundraising plans. Meanwhile, we are compiling a list of potential external funding sources and organizations able to help with this process. We are also thinking about ways to quickly raise funds in the shorter term in case we have an opportunity to acquire a significant property on short notice.

Committee will meet again on May 25.

8.7 GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society): Posthuma reported that he had attended their first monthly board meeting (on Zoom) on April 26. GILSS is a new society dedicated to developing land stewardship on Gabriola for a variety of uses. The meeting was quite brief as the major focus was a lively, informative 1.5-hour educational session on building consensual decisions, presented by Jan Pullinger. The brief regular meeting highlights were a report and discussion on GILSS efforts in searching for land to establish a new cemetery (separate effort from the existing Gabriola cemetery). The board is also involved in trying to obtain charitable society status. The next board meeting will be at 4:30pm, on May 24.

8.8 INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gunn has participated in developing our conservation strategy.

- **Invasive plant removal work party record-keeping:** Gunn is documenting work party volunteer hours: 118.75 hours since April 18.
- **Facilitation of filming** for the 2020 Gabriola Health Care Fdn. Health Report (Tobi Elliott producing Simon Stiles filming). Consent forms signed.
- **Native Plant Depot:** Working with Community Engagement Committee.
- **Whalebone Neighbourhood follow-up:** No news yet from RDN re next steps to prevent new invasives encroachment. They are advised to contact Vanessa Craig.
- **Landscape contractors or volunteers for invasives removal on private property:** Gunn has sent out a landscaper contractor info list to 3 residents who requested help. (Still to do: Send out community wide letter.) Ken Gurr has received requests for volunteers to work on private property, but we have too few volunteers to do this, and also don't want to compete with small business.
- **Research plots:** waiting for results. Neighbours are concerned about impact on native species.
- **DRUMBEG PP:**
 - Ongoing interactions with parks staff re disposal; commercial daphne cutter; boundary signage, mapping; flowering dates.
 - Ongoing discussions and meetings re neighbour's broom infestation and about the trail's incursion onto his property.
 - Debrief re Covid funding contract with Lynn Bowerman.
 - Periwinkle removal: Ongoing discussions re archeological report and ground disturbance, possible spraying of periwinkle, manual monitoring.

- She has picked up tools bought with the PEF funding; awaiting the rest.
- They are considering forming a specific “Friends of Drumbeg” group because there is so much to do there and some volunteer only there.
- She has forward to BC Parks and the GES/SFU reconciliation program information from a consulting firm re potential invasive species projects in BC Parks.
- DISPOSAL of cut invasives:
 - Coordinated with Mainroad, and the Fire Department about using the South Firehall as our drop-off point. Used email and social media to advertise the arrangements and gave information to the Garden Club.
 - Major pickups at Twin beaches, Drumbeg, Queequeg, and Robinson Woods. Mostly Daphne laurel with some Scotch broom and Tansy ragwort.
 - 30 requests for household pickups small and large. 40 households participated. Biggest issue was truck size—too small! 14 volunteers.
- OUTREACH: through emails, Instagram and Facebook posts, including a video of Skinner cutting broom correctly.

8.9 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

- 2 Five-year memberships: 1 family new, 1 family renewal.
- 6 One-year memberships: 2 individual renewals; 2 family new; 2 family renewals.
- **Current total members = 261** (50 1-S; 43 5-S; 60 1-F; 74 5-F; 6 lifelong; 36 monthly)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 18 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded Allan Posthuma to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

8.10 NATURE STEWARDS: *Report to the board from Ken Gurr:* The program was officially launched via The Sounder with a 4-page colour brochure inspiring all islanders to take on a range of practical methods to conserve and enhance nature on their properties and community at large. The launch coincided with an Invasive Species Team community collection and removal work parties. Community reaction has been extremely positive, with anticipation of our outreach work ahead. Work plan and budget were finalized for activities and priorities over the next 8 to 12 months. He submitted an application in April to the RDN for a grant of \$7750 and will also seek support from Nesters and from Village Liquor Store.

In the coming weeks he will:

- Develop/collate training module, field-guide binder, and resources for our volunteer community outreach team of 5- 7 GaLTT folks. We will aim to start “softly” doing property-site visits by mid-June with property-owners that are well-known/in our networks to hone messaging, techniques
- Produce smaller 3-fold brochure for program info, co-ordinate communications with GaLTT engagement committee, opportunistic social media, develop mailer with ITC to a select group of property owners (with caution)
- Ongoing stakeholder communications to keep building awareness and buy-in
- Sort out best solutions for data-base tracking of contacts

8.11 SHARE THE TRAILS: Marcus reported that the committee met on April 21 to discuss three topics: Motorbikes and messaging:

- Discussed the issue of motor bikes on the trails, particularly in the federally held Snunéymuxw lands, conservation impacts of all trail users, communications strategy and key messaging.

- Proposed 'Conserve and respect' tag line to discuss with the Board, depending on the broader Communications Strategy also under development.

ACTION: Johnston to work further on this within Communications Committee work

- **Good ideas for key messages in the Sounder, to our members, and for social media.**
- **Action identified for Kerry to draft, and to invite Ajay Pradhan (negotiations Policy Advisor, Treaties and Aboriginal Government to participate (not completed yet, and no response from A. Pradhan)**

Signage:

- Signage discussed – both the yield signage (with some good ideas) and the “No ORV” signage for the federally-held Snunéymuxw lands.
- Yield signage will likely be 12”x12” rather than triangular.
- Barry checked with RDN about the Yield signage funding and potential placement in the 707. No budget at the moment.
- Dogs on licensed trails—Email communications continue about a problem aggressive dog on the Marcus Trail and a request for 'Dogs on Leash' signage.

8.12 TRAILS: Moerkerken reported:

- There were three special work parties for the Accessibility Committee’s project at Pilot Bay. This project is now complete except for some possible tamping of the recent gravel addition near the picnic table.
- The new resting bench built by Jamie Doig using wood donated by Tom Cameron has been installed on the McConvey Trail.
- Fallen trees were removed at the Pequod trail
- An application was submitted to Gabriola Recreation Society for a grant of \$1000 for materials to build 30 metres of boardwalk for the Peterson – McDonald connector trail. This boardwalk will cover the section of the trail between the two boardwalks previously built by GaLTT. More than half of this section of the trail flooded this past winter. With the installation of the additional boardwalk the trail will finally be useable year-round. Our grant application was approved by GRS for the full amount.

The Capital Region District has hired a consultant to investigate the possibility of a Southern Gulf Islands transportation plan which includes active transportation. Moerkerken was interviewed and provided information about our trail program.

8.13 TREASURER’S REPORT:

Shoemaker had previously circulated the *Statement of Financial Position* and *Statement of Receipts and Disbursements*. He reported that we are one third of the way through our fiscal year and continue to be in good financial shape. So far this year we have received \$4900 more than we have spent. Some of this year’s revenue was from special projects started in 2020. We have a strong cash balance.

The receipt of two \$2000 donations, one for our Nature Stewards and the other for Land Acquisition is wonderful support for our increased focus on these activities, enabling us to undertake more significant programs than would otherwise be possible. We received a total of \$2065 donated for our Nature Stewards program.

The Pilot Bay project (now completed) had total costs of \$6267. We recovered \$4500 from BC Parks, leaving our contribution at \$1767. There may be some small incidental costs to come; (we budgeted up to \$3500 from our Accessibility Fund for this project).

9. Meeting adjourned by Brockley at 9pm:

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday June 8, 2021, by Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Libby Gunn, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus.

1. Brockley called the meeting to order at 7pm, acknowledging that we were meeting on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish people.

2. AGENDA:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Tom Wojcik, to adopt the agenda as circulated. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Lars Hulstein, to accept the minutes for the May 2021 Board meeting as circulated and amended. CARRIED.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** :

- Letter from homeowner re photo in Nature Stewards pamphlet and GaLTT response.
- Letter from Attorney General in response to GaLTT's letter about the need for tree-cutting regulations.
- Letter to Gabriola Housing Society re protection of Lot 4 and the western portion of Lot 1 on Paisley Place.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

5.1 Gaming Grants: Johnston reported that Executive Committee met with Jacobsen (Fund Raising Committee) to discuss needed actions to prepare for applying for substantial grants such as Provincial Gaming Grants. Nature Stewards is our first program requiring specific funding rather than relying solely on volunteers; others may be developed. There will not be time this year to meet application deadlines for a Gaming Grant and other similar funds, but the organization must prepare to apply next year for e.g., coordinator positions for programs like Nature Stewards. Because we have unallocated funds sitting in our account, we need to change our accounting practices including differentiating between internally and externally assigned donations.

ACTION 1: Shoemaker to make the need adjustments to our accounting practices relating to restricted funds.

ACTION 2: Executive Committee and Jacobsen to continue assembling a list of funding sources for grants and major donations. They will report back to Board at the September meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

6.1: Tree-cutting: Brockley has prepared an extensive article for publication in the Sounder and other means of circulation. Normally GaLTT would comment on drafts of bylaws, but they have not been put forward yet.

ACTION: Brockley to submit the article to the Sounder and write to our Trustees and MLA Doug Routley about the issue attaching a copy of the article.

6.2: Summer board meetings:

ACTION: Board will not meet in July. Board meeting format and locations for August and September to be determined later.

6.3: Conservation survey draft: Johnston has circulated her draft of a brief survey to discover how Gabriolans understand GaLTT's role in conservation.

MOTION proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach to approve development of the conservation survey using our accessibility survey as a model regarding distribution and collecting information about demographics. The objective is to discover what the community understands to be GaLTT's role in conservation. CARRIED.

ACTION: Communications Committee to develop, distribute and advertise the survey as soon as possible and run it for one month. The survey is to be repeated after one year to see if public perceptions have shifted.

7. *In camera discussion of possible organizational collaboration regarding land purchase and conservation.* :

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS 1 & 2: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach to move *in camera for discussion, and then ex camera.* CARRIED.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized below. Motions and Actions arising from committee reports are within these summarised reports:

8.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE:

Administration

- Prepared for POSAC; partnership agreement with ITC; reviewed S’ul-hween X’pey (Elder Cedar) management plan; responded to Nick Doe’s letter to Sounder re Coats Marsh; sent letter to Gabriola Housing Society re conservation covenants; composed article about tree-cutting on Gabriola.

Emails and phone discussions:

- With RDN park operations staff about flagging tape in 707 CP; Elaine McCullough re POSAC and Coats Marsh RP, ITC re Partnership Agreement and 2021 contract.
- With various GaLTT committee heads about current work.

Meetings & webinars:

- With island Trustees (Gabriola and Salt Spring), and Sustainable Gabriola people about Islands Trust draft policies.
- With Vanessa Craig about a GaLTT RDN partnership and potential financial support.
- With various GaLTT committees.

8.2 ACCESSIBILITY: Landry reported for Peter Danenhowe that the committee has finished its work to improve accessibility at Pilot Bay. An article has been submitted to the Sounder including a photo of a contented wheelchair user at the accessible picnic table. This user tested the trails, picnic area, and outhouse to ensure that the improvements were sufficient. Landry has submitted a report to Ranger Rundel at BC Parks. Next steps will attempt to improve accessibility at Nelders Pond and at Joyce Lockwood &/or Blue Heron Community Park. Improving Malaspina Galleries viewpoint accessibility is not practical because the grade is too steep. The Taylor Bay beach accessibility project is delayed because it will require major funding.

8.3 BENCHES, COMMEMORATIVE & RESTING: Skinner reported that Dave Neads (Gabriola Woodworkers Guild member) is producing a sample commemorative bench with a back, using donated live-edge maple. It will be stained and have a backrest, but no arm supports. If we accept the bench, his work will be paid. The bench will have a plaque attached naming the person being commemorated. Moerkerken displayed pictures of the bench (not yet stained).

The donation for such a bench (estimated in this instance at around \$3 to 3.5K) is referred to as an “amenity donation”. The donor will also sign an application and if accepted, a Terms and Conditions Agreement.

DISCUSSION: How permanent would the bench locations on MOTI land be? What would happen if MOTI demanded that a bench be removed? Possibility of damage or theft if resting or commemorative benches are close to drivable routes—should they be fastened down?

ACTION: Moerkerken and Shoemaker to work on issuing a tax receipt to Jamie Doig for his extensive volunteer work building resting benches placed in Cox and 707 Community Parks.

8.4 COMMUNICATIONS: During this month, we have:

- Organized written and digital records

- Interacted as needed with social media, supplementing Community Engagement Committee's work.
- Graphic design and writing for Invasives Committee brochures to be distributed to mailboxes; Sounder advertisements; Nature Stewards brochure revision; co-writing trail licence article and writing a press release about accessibility improvements for the Sounder; brochure and pamphlet and signage design with various committees.
- Website updates to the Home Page and the Covenants and Trail Licence Page. The new website template is on hold because of lack of time.
- Emails to volunteers and members about invasives work parties, Trails Day, Nature Stewards, and trail licence video.

8.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Committee Chair Lou Skinner reported:

- We provided volunteers for vaccination clinics at Community Hall and the parking space at the South Firehall. Our tent was damaged by wind and will be billed to island Health. We will help again at the next clinics on June 27-30.
- We will have a weekly summer market table starting July 3. Every other week in September. Board volunteers are needed and are to be coordinated by Paula Gray.
 - A rack of cards about the Winter Walk routes will also serve as dated membership receipts.
 - Ken Gurr will supply "talking points" about the Nature Stewards program.
- Ken Gurr attended Community Engagement Committee meeting. He is willing to guide a tour of gardens with enhanced habitat. GaLTT will receive funding from the Nesters round-up program this month.
- We marked BC Trails Day June 5 by releasing a video showing trail licence holders talking about them.
- Communications Committee and Lou will have a meeting with a new volunteer Paula Brent who may help us with social media strategy.
- On July 7, the Land Based learning for reconciliation project people will meet with Elder Bill White to exchange ideas. Participants are asked to identify reconciliatory actions they have taken.

ACTION 1: Trails committee to let Lou Skinner know about new trail licences so that they can be added to our insurances.

ACTION 2: Board members to sign up with Paula Gray to help at the GaLTT table at the Saturday Farmers' Market.

ACTION 3: Johnston to let Lou Skinner know that our board actions toward reconciliation included:

- using some Hulkumenum place names on our most recent trail map
- ensuring that a First Nations artist was employed to create the new sign for Sul-hween-X'Pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve
- giving first prominence to the Hulkumenum name for the reserve whenever possible.

8.6 CONSERVATION: Landry had circulated the committee's draft 13 of GaLTT's Conservation Strategy.

MOTION: proposed by Nola Johnston seconded by Pat Jacobsen to adopt the Conservation Strategy for GaLTT as presented. CARRIED.

ACTION: Conservation Committee to develop our next steps for implementation and for measuring the strategy's success.

- Conservation Committee and Trails Committee representatives met with Museum Board representatives to discuss the McRae covenant boundaries and signing a trail licence. In future meetings they will discuss placing vehicle-access barriers, moss-protection ropes, and other ecosystem protective measures that may be possible.
- Landry met with Tobi Elliott to film a section of video to be included in the Gabriola Island Health Care Foundation Health Report.
- Began designing a short survey to assess people's awareness of GaLTT's conservation role—see Agenda Item 6.3.
- Wrote letter to Gabriola Housing Society proposing the Conservation of Lot 4 and part of Lot 1 at Paisley Place.
- Met with GILSS to discuss the idea of another joint property purchase and management with a third organization.

8.7 FUND RAISING: Jacobsen reported that the committee met to discuss the board's seeming current lack of urgency about fundraising. Pat also discussed with Executive Committee the changes that may be needed in our accounting procedures, our volunteer capacity, the pros and cons of partnering with other organizations, tree-cutting regulatory power, and trying to assess Gabriolan attitudes about conservation and GaLTT's role.

8.8 GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society): No report.

8.9 INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gunn reported that the committee:

- There are new infestations of yellow iris in salt-water environments in the southern Gulf Islands
- Was alerted to very large hogweed infestation on private land on Gabriola.
- Organized the invasives drop-off location at South Firehall June 4 to 14, as well as an island-wide pick-up day on June 13.
- Organized broom work parties in May totalling **204.75 hours of volunteer work!**
- made a video with Margaret Taylor about Burren's Acres for Facebook and the museum.
- Followed up with the Whalebone neighbourhood volunteer group who plan to apply for a Nanaimo Foundation grant to support their work.
- Wrote to Vanessa Craig about the now-bare area at Queequeg CP, and Yann Martel will visit.
- Sent to residents a list of trained landscapers who can help landowners deal with invasive plants. The list will also be inserted this week in the Sounder.
- Monitored our invasives research plots.
- Promoted invasives work on social media.
- Received proposal for kids to use surplus seedlings at the Native Plant Depot to grow Christmas trees. Responded to requests to remove native plants before clearances on private lots.

8.10 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

- 5 Five-year memberships: 2 family new, 2 individual renewals, 1 individual new.
- 6 One-year memberships: 3 individual renewals; 3 family renewals.
- **Current total members = 266** (45 1-S; 45 5-S; 58 1-F; 77 5-F; 6 lifelong; 37 monthly; 2 expired)

- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 18 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Nola Johnston, seconded Tom Wojcik to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

ACTION: Gehlbach to clarify with Furnell the number of members vs the number of member emails listed—most likely because many family members have more than one email address listed.

8.11 NATURE STEWARDS: Report to the board from Ken Gurr:

Last month: Stocked and restocked pamphlets with realtors and landscapers; had dialogs with the public and ITC personnel; developed consistent messaging and responses to FAQs; investigated suitable data storage apps; developed volunteer field guide and workshopped training session; drafted and time-lined brochure and signage for participants; coordinated social media releases with other committees.

Upcoming: complete setting up the field guide; prepare late-summer social media ramp-up. Gurr will be away for two weeks in mid-July.

8.12 POSAC: Brockley reported that POSAC met May 17. Rob's summary of GaLTT's activities since February was part of the meeting information package. Brockley reiterated our interest in signing a partnership agreement with the RDN and securing some funding from RDN. Other reports and topics were:

Trustee Colbourne update information on

- the Ferry to Village Active Transportation Study funded through a \$10K grant from the Union of BC Municipalities.
- the Trees for Tomorrow initiative coordinated locally by Simon Levesque, which planted 1080 seedlings on Gabriola this spring, including 20 planted by GaLTT in S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve.
- RDN received a grant from Union of BC Municipalities to develop Community Wildfire Resilience Plans for several Electoral Areas. The project will include a fuel management prescription for the 707 CP.
- Gabriola Parks update:
 - Descanso Bay RP toilet replacement and hazardous tree removal; schedule for replacing the office building and storage shed.
 - Huxley Park CP phase 2— Development grants; call for tenders for the new skatepark and improved parking area. Construction is anticipated later this year.
 - Village Pathway is nearly complete, but adjustments are needed at the intersections with the shopping mall and with Church Street. A staircase may be needed to businesses near the junction of North and South Roads.
 - Funding has been applied for to replace the portable building at Rollo McClay Park.
 - Parks and Trails Signage Plan: Development of the draft plan— the second round of public engagement is anticipated to happen this summer until the end of the year. It will guide the RDN regional and community parks departments for the next 10 years.
 - Community Parks Development Cost Charges: The RDN is proposing the implementation of DCCs for community park development. Project information and an online survey is available on at <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdncommunity-parks-dcc> . The survey will be open April 8 – April 30, 2021.
 - New policy for Tree, Fire Risk and Invasive Species Management in RDN Parks and Trails has been approved by RDN Board. It encompasses tree removal; tree replacement; fire risk management; and invasive plant species management.
 - Bluewhale CP and Spring Beach removable beach access stairs have been re-installed for the summer

- A trail will be built through Captain Ahab's Terrace CP after the Village Way Path is completed. The project will require the construction of two short bridges to be paid for by the RDN. GaLTT volunteers will likely be asked to assist with trail routing and building.
- Offleash dog park plans have been revived but will await the management plan review for Cox CP and the new parkland near the clinic after it is officially received.

8.13 SHARE THE TRAILS: No report.

8.14 TRAILS: Moerkerken informed the board that he will be working off island for three months this summer, returning every three weeks for one week. Hulstein will stand in for him during his absence. The boardwalk extension at Peterson-McDonald will be delayed to the Fall. He reported:

- Moerkerken was interviewed by Watts Consulting for information they are gathering from various organizations for a CRD South Gulf Islands Transportation Integration Plan. Question categories were: 1) Organization, Structure and Management, 2) Funding, Costs, Signage
- Installation work parties for a 15-metre split rail fence at Bluewhale CP and a bench built by Jamie Doig near post 49 in 707CP.
- Trail trimming at Evans Rd & Merlin, Wilkinson Way, Clamshell to South Rd, Garland to Stokes and nearby loops, El Verano shore access #39.
- Trail licences: 10th anniversary of these licences!
 - To recognise International Trails Day, Hulstein submitted an article to the Sounder about what the licences are and who benefits from them. Also, Community Engagement Cttee. produced a video of landowners talking about their trail licences.
 - Two new licences were signed in May, bringing the total to 19:
 - with the property owner beside AGI Hall, from South Rd to the McRae Covenant
 - with the Gabriola Museum who recently purchased the McRae covenanted land.

8.15 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Shoemaker had previously circulated the *Statement of Financial Position* and *Statement of Receipts and Disbursements* for May and year to date.

- He reported that it has been a quiet month for receipts and payments. We have a strong cash balance. This month we received donations of \$2510. We paid \$3000 to Ken Gurr for the Nature Stewards program. Some revenue this year was earned through special projects in 2020. This year we have received \$1750 more than we have spent.
- He gave special thanks to the 17 donors who for several years have given through the CCCU Automatic Fund Transfer—their joint annual contribution of \$2,800 is wonderful support for our programs.
- During the next months there may be some changes in the presentation of our financial information as we consider moving forward on our fundraising initiative.

9. Meeting adjourned by Brockley at 9pm:

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

NOTE: There was no GaLTT Board meeting in July.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday August 10, 2021

in person at 465 Bruce Lynn Drive.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Libby Gunn, Barry Moerkerken.

1. Brockley called the meeting to order at 6pm at his home, acknowledging gratefully that we were meeting on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish people.

2. AGENDA:

Agenda accepted by consensus as circulated. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Nola Johnston, to accept the minutes for the June 8, 2021, Board meeting as previously circulated and newly amended by the removal of the clause: “which was also sent to Nuala Murphy at the ITC” from Item 8.6. CARRIED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. BC Parks PEF funding approval letter
- b. Invitation from Tobi Elliott to participate in a research project “Walking in Truth: unsettling, decolonizing, and Learning Relational Ways of Being (See also Item 6b)
- c. LTABC Newsletter and Request to complete 2021 Census Survey.
- d. Letter from Mayne Island Conservancy Society re collaboration on joint statement on draft IT Policy Statement. (See also Item 6c)
- e. Permit approval from MOTI for bench installation.
- f. Email from Derek (Sounder) re media release about VIU re Mid-Island Stewardship Caucus
- g. Briefing note re Green Burials from the Holdgrafers. (See also Item 6d)

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Conservation Survey data analysis: Johnston had previously circulated the basic results of the conservation survey which was run for one month to July 23. The survey was available digitally directly from our website and linked directly via emails to members and volunteers, and to other island groups. Paper copies were available at the market table, library, and museum. 324 surveys were filled, the vast majority digitally. Member Nick Doe has offered to do further analysis as required using the Excel spreadsheet of data.

ACTION: Conservation and Fund-Raising Committees to discuss what further data they wish to extract from the raw data.

5.2 Raincoast Conservation Foundation webinar. Johnston attended the Webinar, which had a tree-cutting focus. Islands Trust currently has staff with experience in ecological matters, but not forests. Forestry is a provincial matter. IT tools for controlling tree cutting are limited. Galiano Island achieved some control over tree cutting by linking tree protection to the issues of water.

ACTION 1: Johnston to send a link to the You-tube video of the webinar to the Board.

ACTION 2: Brockley to apply for GaLTT to be included on the Raincoast Conservation Foundation’s mailing list.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1: MOU re Kensington Lands between Snuneymuxw, Prov. of BC, and the Federal Govt.: Landry commented that we must find opportunities to discover more about Snuneymuxw concerns and how best we might engage with the SFN regarding cooperative stewardship of the transferred lands, and related issues.

ACTION: Marcus will supply information to the Board about the experience of Backcountry Horsemen, Central Vancouver Island chapter (CVI) in meeting with representatives from BC and the Snuneymuxw forest management department regarding the impending transfer of 3000 acres of land from BC Crown to the Snuneymuxw off Spruston Road.

6.2: GaLTT participation in Tobi Elliott's research project "Walking in Truth..." Elliott is working with the museum to develop relationships, decolonize, and build respect. Johnston reported that Elliott aims to develop tools for working respectfully with FN and for settler self-education. The museum wishes to be a node for this community work. Johnston prepared for her interview on behalf of GaLTT by putting together a list of steps we have already taken. The discussion group meeting (which Gehlbach and Lou Skinner will attend) has not yet been scheduled.

ACTION: Johnston to distribute her interview notes to interested Board members.

6.3: Joint Gulf Island statement re IT policy. Brockley reported that Mayne Island Conservancy has approached 13 land trusts in the IT area inviting them to participate in a joint response regarding the proposed Island Trust policy Statement. Brockley has forward GaLTT's initial response to the Mayne Island representative. Board discussed the need for and scope of a group meeting with Trustee Langereis about the proposed policy statement.

ACTION: Brockley to set up a group meeting with Trustee Langereis to discuss the proposed Policy Statement.

6.4: Mid-Island Stewardship Caucus: Gehlbach reported that Derek Kilbourn of the Sounder had forwarded to her the VIU news release about the new stewardship group "Mid Island Stewardship Caucus" which has been formed to allow environmental organizations in the mid-island region to connect, collaborate, and share resources and expertise. The members are:

- Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT)
- Hamilton Marsh Committee
- Save Estuary Land Society
- Arrowsmith Naturalists
- Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
- Friends of French Creek Conservation Society.
- Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society
- Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR)
- VIU's Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI)
- Broombusters

ACTION: Landry to follow up with Paul Chapman of NALT about GaLTT joining this caucus.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS: previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized here.

7.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE:

Administration

- Submitted revised tree-cutting article to Sounder and emailed a copy to LTC
- Signed contract with Islands Trust Conservancy re support for Nature Stewards program
- Signed PEF funding approval letter
- **Draft IT Policy Statement:**
 - Reviewed Policy Statement and presented general comments at IT Town Hall meeting on July 7.

- Prepared email to GaLTT members about the policy statement and our comments.
- Began comprehensive review of draft IT Policy Statement
- Thank you card to volunteer and thank you emails to donors
- Completed and submitted LTABC land census survey

Correspondence and Discussions

- RDN staff
 - With Chris van Ossenbruggen about
 - maps and posts for 707 CP
 - new signage for Cox CP
 - With Elaine McCulloch about stair access at Joyce Lockwood CP
 - With Mark Dodds Gagnon about draining of water from Coats Marsh
- Jamie Leigh Hopkins of MoTI about permit for bench installation at Shore Access #100
- Vanessa Craig (RDN rep.)
 - About RDN funding for GaLTT
 - About RDN partnership with Coastal Invasive Species Cttee.
- Others
 - With Thetis Island IT Director (Doug Fenton) about Nature Stewards program and funding
 - With Tobi Elliott about GaLTT participating in research project titled *Walking in Truth: Unsettling, Decolonizing and Learning Relational Ways of Being*, for Key Organizations on Gabriola Island
 - With Michael Dunn (Mayne Conservancy) about participation in a review and joint statement on draft Islands Trust Policy Statement

Planning/Meetings

- With Kaitlin Fader (RDN Emergency Services) and Steve Dowker (consultant) about emergency evacuation routes on Gabriola
- With Sheila Harrington and five GaLTT past presidents to discuss history and evolution of GaLTT a book she is writing about land trusts in BC
- With Gehlbach, Landry, and Jacobsen about Paisley Place conservation options
- Attended webinar hosted by LTABC to discuss plans to form a national land trust organization
- Meeting with Ajay Pradhan and Georgia Fenton (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) to discuss GaLTT's activities in Federal lands and possible partnership

7.2 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Shoemaker had previously circulated the Statements of Financial Position and of Receipts and Disbursements in total and by class. He reported that June and July have been busy for GaLTT. This year we have received \$26,100 in revenue and spent \$24,500. We have sufficient funds to support all our budgeted activities which seem to be progressing well.

It is now time to start thinking about our 2022 budget—Board should consider our strategic goals and think about which of them is most important and what, more than usual, we might do to advance it. What are the options for our accumulated surplus of \$80,000?

7.3 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

- 0 Five-year memberships new or renew.
- 17 One-year memberships: 5 individual renewals; 6 individual new; 4 family new; 2 family renewals.)
- **Current total members = 275**
(53 1-S; 45 5-S; 62 1-F; 80 5-F; 6 lifelong; 37 monthly; 8 expired memberships, not renewed)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 19 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded Pat Jacobsen to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

ACTION: Board to consider ways to increase our membership and keep current members engaged.

COMMUNICATIONS: During this month, we have:

- **Social media:** Paula Brent is creating a new GaLTT Facebook page with an events calendar and with a system for regular posting from various committees. She will manage the transition of existing FB members to the new page.
- **Conservation Survey:** Johnston designed the survey and committee advertised it through print and digital media and by email to members and volunteers and asking other organizations to forward to their members. The survey ran for one month, terminating on July 23. Paper surveys were distributed to the museum, library, and the market table. The relatively small number of handwritten survey responses were entered into the digital file. A document was generated to summarize the results.
- **Communications plan.** In progress.
- **Graphic design:**
 - Design work is proceeding on the new printed GaLTT brochure. (Text is drafted.)
 - Nature Stewards printing of draft signage designs, information brochure, and field-guide forms.
 - Instagram ad to promote Nesters Roundup program.
 - Mini “Wanted” poster for tansy removal.
 - Conservation protected areas map; no text
- **Webpage changes:**
 - Home page: Added acknowledgement of FN territory; updates re Conservation Survey; Tansy ragwort work notices; July event reports.
 - Misc. small updates and corrections on various pages.
- **Emails:** to members and volunteers re Conservation Survey and invasives work parties.

7.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Committee Chair Lou Skinner reported:

- **VACCINATION CLINIC:** Lou will help setup and monitor parking on August 24. No other help needed.
- **MARKET:** Going well, with Paula Gray’s full slate of volunteers. There has been a significant increase in questions about biking trails.

ACTION: Wojcik (Share the Trails committee) to make a simple map and info sheet showing suitable biking trail routes to have at the market table for visiting cyclists to photograph.

- **NATIVE PLANT DEPOT**—closed due to drought.
- **COMMONS FALL FAIR:** we will have a table at this event on September 19
- **INTERGENERATIONAL LAND-BASED LEARNING FOR RECONCILIATION:** Landry and Lou Skinner attended a meeting July 7, where a brochure by Elder Bill White about Snuneymux traditions was unveiled. *See also items 6.1 and 6.2.*
- **SOUND WALKS WITH DINAH DEE:** local musician Dinah will provide journals and lead walks along the shore or in the forest. Participation by donation and GaLTT will pay Dinah an honorarium.
- **END TO END TREK:** Saturday September 11 from Silva Bay to The Surf. A group tested the route on August 1 and decided to allow for six hours of walking plus rests/snacks, arriving at the Surf by 4pm. We are considering preregistration, and giving free appies for members. The regular Saturday Gertie bus route will be available. Committee is investigating the possibility of permission to use the trail connection to the Surf via Bell’s Landing and Sandwell Park.

7.6 COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES: Skinner reported that GaLTT has received permit application approval from BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to install a bench on public Shore access #100 (the applicant's preferred location). It will be ready for installation by late August. Pat Jacobsen met with the concerned resident near the planned location who reports that people often trespass on her property. She has since agreed to the bench installation going ahead.

ACTION: Bench Committee to continue discussing what may need to be done to ensure that the adjacent resident is not unduly disturbed.

7.7 CONSERVATION: Landry reported:

- An **MOU between the Snuneymuxw FN**, BC government, and federal government was signed on July 28, formalizing a new negotiations table between the three governments, that sets out priority items for resolution. Transfer of the Kensington Lands are included in the list of priority items.
- The announcement of the **purchase of Saturnina Island** by the BC Parks Foundation was officially made on June 29. The purchase was made possible by a generous donation by the Wilson 5 Foundation. The island will be managed by the ITC under a 99-year lease. GaLTT has agreed to assist with the future stewardship of the island.
- Conservation committee members will participate in the **Museum Society's Labour Day Weekend Tour with a GaLTT stop at the McRae Covenant** talking about the covenant, the McRaes' legacy, and the impact of covenants and legacy giving.
- Using material from the GaLTT website, an **information sheet on conservation covenants** was prepared for people working at the Farmers' Market.
- The **annual covenant monitoring visits** are now complete (S'ul-hween X'pey/Elder Cedar June 17; Robinson Woods July 12; and Bachmann covenant July 16), and reports are being drafted.

7.8 FUND RAISING: No report.

7.9 GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society): No report, but briefing email from Green Burials group.

7.10 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT: Gunn is away for the summer, so Alison Thomas has been organizing Tansy ragwort-culling work parties, including neighbourhood groups, and encouraging "adopt a strip" for commuters along South and North Roads. The culled-invasives collection area at South Firehall is now closed.

7.11 NATURE STEWARDS: No report.

7.12 SHARE THE TRAILS: Marcus reported that the committee has not met for a couple of months, however, there has been ongoing communication with Treaty Negotiations Policy Advisor Ajay Pradhan, and Georgia Fenton regarding off road vehicles in the Federally held Snuneymuxw lands on Gabriola Island. A signage project proposal has been submitted for their approval where they will pay for printing the signs and share the cost of posting them with GaLTT.

While not the subject of this committee, Kerry met in Nanaimo area yesterday as a Board member of the Backcountry Horsemen, Central Vancouver Island chapter (CVI) with representatives from BC and the Snuneymuxw forest management department regarding the impending transfer of 3000 acres of land from BC Crown to the Snuneymuxw off Spruston Road. CVI currently holds a recreational lease there. This is the start of an interesting process for future conversation.

7.13 TRAILS: Moerkerken reported:

Work parties:

In June, 3 work parties in Elder Cedar to install 2 new boardwalks and raise the centre support on an existing boardwalk across the creek

In July

- 2 work parties to install Jamie Doig Benches in the 707 Community Park: one along the trail from the end of Jeanette Ave and another at Post 27
- Installed posts & signage at the Fleet St CP and at the Fantasy Pathway trail licence.
- Started work for the Peterson-McDonald connector by building 11 boardwalk frames. Partial funding for this work is from a grant from the Gabriola Recreation Society

Trail Trimming: Haven Woods, Centre Trail and North and Vanilla leaf loop; Petroglyph Trail; Tait to Elgie; Elgie to 707 (SP 89); Robinson Woods and Murray right of way; Jack's Dropper; Joyce Lockwood; Waterfall Loop in Federal lands); 707 Signposts 16 -17-18-19-20-21-22-23

Fallen trees removed from trails: at the end of Windecker Drive and from a side trail off the Joyce Lockwood Community Park trail.

8. Meeting was adjourned to the potluck dinner by Brockley at 7pm:

Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday September 14, 2021, via Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Libby Gunn.

1. **Brockley called the meeting to order at 7:04pm from his home.** *We acknowledge that we are gathered this evening on the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. We believe land trusts and Indigenous peoples share a similar land ethic and bond with the natural environment. GaLTT is committed to working towards reconciliation with First Nations so that we can engage in a respectful dialogue and knowledge-sharing on issues and projects of mutual interest.*
2. **AGENDA:** Agenda was amended to delete under New Business b. Conservation policies and evaluation criteria. And add f. Trees for Tomorrow.

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Landry to accept the Agenda as amended. CARRIED.

3. MINUTES:

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Johnston to accept the minutes for the August 10, 2021, Board meeting as previously circulated

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Letter to The Nature Trust of BC about water drainage at Coats Marsh Regional Park, no response received to date. However, an appreciative note was received from Nick Doe.
- b. Email received from LTABC regarding the upcoming fall webinar series, directors are encouraged to register.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.a. Joint statement with other Land Trusts re IT draft Policy Statement. Michael Dunn invited 12 Land Trusts to co-write a policy statement to send to Island's Trust.

ACTION: Brockley will work with a member from Mayne Island and from Salt Spring Island to write a draft letter, due by the beginning of November.

5.b. Mid Island Stewardship Caucus. Landry investigated to find out why GaLTT was not included. It is only for groups in the geographic area of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Special Board session to discuss capacity issues. Our strategic plan says we will review our capacity as a board and our mandate as needed. GaLTT has grown a lot and volunteers are stretched with expanded scope of work. In discussion it became clear that we should look at our mandate first with capacity to follow. There was general agreement to arrange for Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley to facilitate a special board session.

ACTION: Brockley will arrange this with Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley.

6.2. Discussion of ad hoc Bench Committee report and recommendations. Skinner reviewed the work of the bench *ad hoc* committee and the successful bench installation which took place on August 28th. Based on committee discussion and positive feedback from the community Skinner made three recommendations:

MOTION: Proposed by Skinner, seconded by Johnston, to accept the Bench ad hoc Committee's final report. CARRIED.

MOTION: Proposed by Skinner, seconded by Moerkerken, to appoint Sarah Kopjar, in consultation with other Board Committees, to lead a process to create a proposal for a GaLTT Amenity Donation Program for Board approval. CARRIED.

MOTION: Proposed by Skinner, seconded by Gehlbach to dissolve the ad hoc Bench Committee. CARRIED.

6.3. Discussion re reviewing shore accesses to determine their hazard level and the need to remove markers from hazardous accesses. After an incident involving a fall at a marked but unmaintained beach access was reported to GaLTT, Moerkerken asked the Board about liability. MOTI ROW beach accesses are marked for public information but should these signs be removed if the access is not in good condition?

ACTION: Skinner volunteered as a member of the Trails Committee to investigate how other islands handle similar circumstances. Trails Committee will come back to the board with ideas.

6.4. Trees for Tomorrow. Landry was asked by Scott Colburne if GaLTT wants to be involved with organizing this program this fall. The person who did it this spring now has another job. Landry asked for suggestions of people with forestry or tree planting knowledge who might be able to help.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS: previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized here.

7.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE:

Administration

- Contacted Kees Langereis about setting up meeting with GaLTT board to discuss IT draft Policy statement
- Request to Raincoast Conservation Foundation to be added to contact list
- Reviewed draft amenity donation form for benches prepared by Bench committee
- Reviewed draft “property evaluation criteria” document
- Uploaded several GaLTT policies to LTABC website for testing purposes
- Letter to The Nature Trust of BC about water drainage at Coats Marsh Regional Park

Correspondence and Discussions

- RDN staff
 - With Yann Gagnon (cc to Vanessa Craig) about concerns with lowered water levels in Coats Marsh
- Islands Trust Conservancy
 - With Jemma Green about Nature Stewards landholder contact project
- Others
 - With Kees Langereis about Snuneymuxw Treaty lands on Gabriola
 - With Dyan Duns Moor-Farley about a facilitated session with Board to discuss capacity issues
 - With Scott Colbourne about Trees for Tomorrow program
 - With Laura Clark (VIU) about participation in an active transportation project to scope and design suitable pedestrian and alternate transportation options to connect the Descanso Bay Ferry terminal with the Gabriola Village Core

Planning/Meetings

- With Kees Langereis and several Board members about draft IT Policy Statement
- With Nature Stewards team about site surveys
- With Executive about finances, capacity, and fundraising
- Co-hosted public presentation with Anne Landry about McRae Covenant at Museum Historical Tours event
- With Conservation Committee and ad hoc Bench Committee chair

7.3 TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the 8 months ended August 31, 2021, were sent to board members earlier.

Our financial position continues to be strong. All payments are current, and receivables are less than 90 days old. This month saw the successful completion of the first memorial bench. We received a donation for

infrastructure amenities of \$2,500. Our costs were \$671 for supplies, construction design and labour. We will be issuing a receipt to the donor of the wood the bench was constructed from. *See also Item 7.6.*

LONGER TERM

The executive (with the addition of Pat Jacobsen) met recently to consider changing our financial reporting to the best presentation for our donors and operations. It was a good discussion, and the following items were agreed upon for presentation to the full board meeting.

- GaLTT will have a workshop to consider the capacity of the organization and with reference to our Strategic Plan, consider the uses for our accumulated surpluses of about \$79,000. Following the workshop GaLTT will decide what portion, if any, of those funds will be allocated to programs and the portion(s) allocated to Land Acquisition and other longer-term objectives. Rob and Anne will arrange for the workshop.
- An *ad hoc* committee of Rob Brockley, Pat Jacobsen and Frank Shoemaker will consider the services the Nanaimo and Vancouver foundations (and potentially others) offer to charities for investment of our funds not currently required for operations.
- The format of the statements will follow the samples reviewed from Galiano and Salt Spring Island conservancies.
- We will engage an independent professional accountant to review our statements and give a Notice to Reader report. GaLTT has not done this previously, others do.

MOTION 1: Proposed by Shoemaker, seconded by Gehlbach, to establish an *ad hoc* committee to research better investment opportunities and review options. CARRIED.

MOTION 2: Proposed by Shoemaker, seconded by Marcus, to seek out a Certified Professional Accountant to review 2021 Financial Statement. CARRIED.

7.4 COMMUNICATIONS: Kopjar has agreed to join Communications Committee and take over the minute-writing task from Gehlbach. This past month, we have:

Social Media

- Transition by Paula Brent from GaLTT's old Facebook page to the new one is in progress.

Newspaper:

- Notice to Souder about Stalker Road bench installation and advertisement for end-to-end hike.

GaLTT brochure:

- Continued work for the new GaLTT paper brochure.

Current website

- **Renewal of website hosting contract**
- **Updates to Home page:** Added/removed event notices
 - Tansy ragwort work party notices
 - End to End Hike info
 - August event reports.
- **Update to Invasives page** (Tansy ragwort removal technique details)

New website:

- Beginning to transfer existing website content over to the new structure to test effectiveness of display and navigation. Creating new topic pages and searchable event-reports.

Emails to members and volunteers

- to members re Stalker Road trail memorial bench installation
- to volunteers re Tansy ragwort work parties and personal initiatives on North and South Roads.

7.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Committee Chair Lou Skinner reported: :

Table at Saturday Market

- Tom Wojcik created a map that highlighted bicycling trails of two different levels and this is proving popular with cyclists who photograph it.

- Suggestions from table visitors included
 - put First Nations names of creeks on our map
 - have a donation box at the ferry for GaLTT since off-island cyclists enjoy our trails and would be happy to make a donation
 - bring back the trail work parties.
- **SOUND WALKS WITH DINAH DEE**
First will occur on October 23. We are just working out details and depending on success, hope to offer three more during the winter.
- **RECONCILIATION ACTIVITIES**
Tobi Elliott is organizing a talking circle for organizations to discuss how to further reconciliation on Gabriola. Jenni will attend on behalf of GaLTT.
- **WINTER ACTIVITIES**
Will probably involve walks to specific trees or benches.
- **END TO END WALK**
The End-to-End Walk, from Silva Bay to the Surf on September 11 had a record number of people, despite rainy conditions. We estimate 97 people began the walk, with a few leaving or joining at our two rest stops. In all 106 people did all or part of the walk, with the vast majority completing the whole 16km. Silva Bay kindly let us use their parking area and The Surf coped well with serving almost 50 bedraggled walkers. Drizzly weather led to shortened breaks, so we arrived ahead of schedule at roughly 3 pm (approximately 4.45 hours walk for the front walkers).

7.6 COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES: Skinner reported that the ad hoc Bench Committee installed a commemorative bench at Public Shore Access #100 off Stalker Road on [August 28](#) 2021 with the assistance of Trails Committee volunteers. The bench was constructed by Dave Neads of the Gabriola Woodworkers Guild with live edge wood donated by GaLTT member Linda Harrison. As part of the agreement with and payment by the donor, this bench will be maintained by GaLTT for 10 years, until August 28, 2031. The committee feels this was a successful pilot project and therefore, it is worth considering creating a permanent committee to manage this and future amenity donations. More work on the details is required.

7.7 CONSERVATION: Landry reported that

- presentations at the McRae Covenant were given on Sat/Sun, September 4/5, part of the Museum's Islanders Sharing Stories event. The presentations focused on the details of the covenant, its ecological features and sensitivities, and tools for land protection on Gabriola. Small numbers from the public (6-10 per presentation) but the programs were well-received and several Museum board members and staff also attended.
- Landry looked into the Mid-Island Stewardship Organization for potential GaLTT involvement. The geographic area for the group is the Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (all on Vancouver Island) so we are not eligible to join at this time.
- Due to further concerns about the intentional water level drop in Coats Marsh, Brockely wrote a letter to the co-owner, The Nature Trust of BC to see if they are fully aware and in agreement with the current actions.
- As part of the Policy 9 revisions, the Criteria for Assessing Prospective Properties for Conservation has been significantly revised to make it more focused and practical for assessing properties. Members of the Conservation Committee will field test and revise the tool before it comes to the board for approval.
- We are seeking advice from knowledgeable individuals in the community about actions we might consider now related to the recent MOU signed between SFN, BC and Canada.

7.8 FUND RAISING: Jacobsen reported that the committee reviewed items which they consider fundamental prior to any major external fundraising, including how our financials are displayed, how our investments are managed for higher returns, and community education on the need for conservation and particularly land protection. While these initiatives are being undertaken by various committees, our committee is interested in

reaching out to our current members to encourage them to be donors to our land acquisition fund, particularly as monthly donors. We wish to:

- First, send a personal email before the end of September to each of our 37 monthly donors to highlight the need and to invite them to increase their monthly donation. (Most made their initial commitment many or several years ago.)
- Second, over the next few months encourage all members (and non-members) to be bigger donors to GaLTT's conservation mandate through money, land, and covenant agreements.

7.9 GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society): no report this month.

7.10 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT: Gunn reported several updates:

Provincial Parks-Arrowsmith Region – high staff turnover. This means some things haven't been done. Staff will, however, soon be putting "ropes and weights" along the actual boundary of the private property adjacent to Drumbeg Pk. This is a follow-up to GaLTT communications with the neighbours (about broom) during which we learned that some of the trail along the edge of the meadow encroaches on private property.

Park Enhancement Fund (PEF) Grant - GaLTT Restoration work in Drumbeg

- Kirsten will come to Gabriola on Nov 1 to oversee the site prep and planting at the four sites in the meadow that were seeded last year.
- use of remaining 2020 seeds, and purchase of additional seeds and/or plugs

Work Parties

- Tansy ragwort removal continued through August
- Broom, vinca and orchard grass removal in Drumbeg Provincial Park

Periwinkle

Vinca continues to be a major concern at Drumbeg. We reviewed key elements of 2021 Archaeological report and impact on periwinkle strategy. The proposed method is to spray Glycosphate in areas that are nearly Vinca monocultures, when in flower. Window missed this year. BC Parks thinks the best approach (from an archaeological point of view) is to avoid dealing with Vinca on known middens, and to apply on other trial sites, then to bring in First Nations to assess the impact and discuss possible use on known archaeological sites. Some of the worst infestations are on known shell middens. In the meantime, some physical hand-removal by GaLTT volunteers will continue.

Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed

There are several infestations of Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed on various parts of Gabriola, mostly on private land but some encroaching on RDN community parks. One knotweed infestation is in the ditch along South Road (Mainroad has been trying to deal with this one). One landowner does not want to remove her knotweed. Unlike some jurisdictions, BC does not have any legal requirement to remove knotweed.

The RDN is again participating in the Coastal Invasive Species Committee's (CISC) hogweed and knotweed removal program. I put the landowners directly in touch with Toth and will follow up this month.

Gorse

Two bushes observed on the road allowance across from Heart and Soil, very close to where gorse was identified on South Road two years ago.

Broom award!

Suzanne and Peter Christopher created a 'broom buster of the year' trophy, complete with mounted broom trunk! They presented it to Lou and Hugh Skinner at the Wednesday Walkers' potluck. They have offered to make trophies for other invasives. Thanks to Suzanne and Peter!

7.11 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

- 0 Five-year memberships new or renew.
- 7 One-year memberships: 1 individual renewals; 3 individuals new; 1 family renewal; 1 family new; 1 complimentary individual)

- **Current total members = 278** up 3 from last month (56 1-S; 45 5-S; 62 1-F; 81 5-F; 6 lifelong; 37 monthly; 9 expired memberships, not renewed)
- Monthly donors: 16 through CAFT; 19 through Canada Helps; 2 through CCCU direct.

MOTION: Proposed by Marcus, seconded Jacobsen to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

7.12 NATURE STEWARDS: No report.

7.13 POSAC (Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee): No report this month

7.14 SHARE THE TRAILS: Marcus reported that the committee did not meet in August, however:

- There has been on going communication with Treaty Negotiations Policy Advisor Ajay Pradhan, and Georgia Fenton regarding off road vehicles in the Federally held Snuneymux'w Lands on Gabriola Island. A signage project proposal was submitted for their approval where they were to pay for printing of signs and share the cost of posting them with GaLTT. They were unable to approve the funding for this project other than the cost of printing, as they cannot pay by any means other than by credit card. They now propose to pay for the printing the signs and use their contractor Peter Lloyd to post them.
- Kerry was interviewed by Leanne Hewlin about the history of the End-to-End walk
- Tom and Kerry will be meeting with Laura Clark at VIU, in connection with the Gabriola active transportation group planning, as part of a study they're undertaking.

7.15 TRAILS: Moerkerken reported:

Work parties:

- A work party was held to remove the old mesh and strips of asphalt shingles on the boardwalk sections on the Joyce Lockwood Trail. The mesh had become rusted and worn out and only patches of disintegrated shingles were still remained. New mesh will be installed on the boardwalk during a September work party
- A work party was held to install a commemorative bench at the shore access point off of Stalker Rd near Drumbeg Park. The bench was built by Dave Neads of the Wood Workers Guild of Gabriola

An email has been received regarding the condition of a shore access from Broadview Rd (in the Whalebone area) down to the beach. The person mentioned that the trail is seriously eroded and the lower part of the pathway is dangerous. The person had fallen and nearly ended up tumbling over the edge onto the logs below. It was asked if it was something GaLTT could fix. Two access locations along Broadview Rd have been checked. There doesn't seem to be much GaLTT can do to improve access and it is not something we would want to take responsibility or liability for the infrastructure. There are 10 shore access locations in the Whalebone/Strand area that are not in any of the various parks in the area. Most will have similar conditions to the 2 that were examined.

8. **IN CAMERA** Landry requested that the meeting move in camera to discuss two properties. One is the initiation of discussions with a landholder about a conservation covenant and the other a property with conservation values of interest to GaLTT.
9. **Plans for future board meetings:** Brockley asked whether we want to go back to in person meetings or continue with Zoom. It was agreed that we will continue to meet via Zoom for October and November.
10. Meeting was adjourned by Brockley at 8:32pm:

Minutes recorded by Sarah Kopjar.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday October 12, 2021, via Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Lars Hulstein, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken (joined at 8:05pm), Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Libby Gunn, Pat Jacobsen, Alan Posthuma.

1. **Brockley called the meeting to order at 7:04pm from his home.** *We acknowledge that GaLTT's activities all take place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.*

2. **AGENDA:**

1. **Agenda was amended to add discussion about the AGM.**
2. **MOTION: Proposed by Johnston, seconded by Gehlbach to accept the agenda as amended. CARRIED.**

3. **MINUTES:**

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Skinner to accept the minutes for the September 14, 2021, Board meeting as previously circulated. CARRIED.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Letter written to Robbin Sinclair regarding the memorial bench.
- b. Response received from The Nature Trust of BC about water drainage at Coats Marsh Regional Park. GaLTT still has concerns, the depth of the water affects the ecology and diversity of species. The Conservation Committee will comment but the best time to do this during the management review for the park.
- c. Letter written to the Gabriola Recreation Society regarding the completion of work for a grant we were given. It would be a good idea to write an article detailing the work done.

ACTION: Brockley, Gehlbach and Moerkerken will write an article describing the work completed on the Petersen/MacDonald trail and boardwalks. Leanne Hewlin may help.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

5.1. Upcoming workshop. Brockley and Landry talked to Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley regarding our board workshop. We need to define our mandate.

MOTION: Proposed by Landry, seconded by Marcus that the board approve a fee up to \$3000 payable to Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley and Associates to facilitate and take notes for two workshop sessions about our board mandate and capacity. CARRIED

ACTION: Brockley will send out a Doodlepoll to decide on the dates.

5.2. Joint land trust review of Islands Trust policy statement. Brockley is working with three other island's land trusts to develop a joint statement for review and approval by several other land trusts in the Trust Area. There will also be a public consultation process for the Policy Statement later in the Fall.

5.3. Amenity donation program. Kopjar reported that no further work has been done this month.

5.4. Ken Gurr contract. Brockley suggested that we amend Gurr's contract because the program in gaining momentum and the fees in the current contract have been used.

MOTION: Proposed by Shoemaker, seconded by Johnston. That Ken Gurr's current contract be amended to increase total fees payable to an amount not to exceed \$8100. CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. AGM early discussion. Decided that the AGM should be held via Zoom again, we had a really good turnout last year. We won't have a speaker at the same time, we'll save that as a separate event. We will decide on a date at our November board meeting.

ACTION: Be sure to acknowledge Jamie Doig at the AGM for all the benches he has made.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS: previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized here.

7.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE:

Administration

- Thank you letter to Linda Harrison re Team Konrad donation
- Letter to Robbin Sinclair re bench donation
- Completion report and letter to Gabriola Recreation Society re 2021 grant
- Revised text for 2021 tax receipts
- Correspondence summary for website
- GaLTT insurance discussions with Lou Skinner
- Followed up with Mainroad Group about re-surfacing parking lot at Gabriola Sands PP

Correspondence and Discussions

- RDN staff
 - With Chris van Ossenbruggen about unauthorized trail building in 707 CP
- Islands Trust Conservancy
 - With Jemma Green about revisions to ITC/Nature Stewards landholder contact letter
- Others
 - With Ken Gurr about Nature Stewards program
 - With Tom Reid (Nature Trust of BC) re Coats Marsh drainage issues
 - With Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley about potential Board workshop(s) to review mandate and capacity issues
 - With Michael Dunn (Mayne Island Conservancy) about contents of joint statement from land trusts re IT draft Policy Statement

Planning/Meetings

- Attended the AGM of the Gulf Islands Trails Society (trail organizations from Galiano, Mayne, Saturna, Pender, Salt Spring, and Gabriola). We joined GITS in October 2020.
- Attended LTABC webinar about "Working with Indigenous Peoples".
- Meeting with Kim Haliburton (BC Parks) and Lou Skinner re 2021 PEF grants and potential funding for large accessibility project.

7.4 ACCESSIBILITY: No report this month

7.5 COMMUNICATIONS:

This month Nola and Jenni have been almost entirely occupied with building the new website.

Emails were sent to members about

- the October 23 Sound Walk with Dinah D
- nominating their favourite trees for inclusion in the Winter Walk series.

7.6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Table at Saturday Market

- we had a GaLTT table weekly until labour day and then we dropped to alternate weeks
- our final table was October 2. We did not have enough volunteers for thanksgiving weekend.
- Lou and Paula did set up and take down most weeks since volunteers found the wagon heavy. We will look for ways to lighten the load next year.

End to end walk:

- we will do one annually
- we will borrow a satellite phone or other communication device so we can call if needed because there is limited cell phone service on much of Gabriola
- we will do pre-registration via email to speed up check in and give a more accurate number to the restaurant at the end
- this will also enable us to determine if there would be enough interest to book Gertie

Silent Soundwalk #1/North End - October 23, 1 pm Gabriola Sands Provincial Park with Dinah D

- pre registration is ongoing at programs@galtt.ca . So far we have reached about half of our 25 capacity by just advertising to GaLTT members
- we are charging \$10 (suggested donation) to recover costs
- depending on interest, we plan to offer four sound walks during the winter

Winter Walk About

- we are in the planning stage of this year's walks, on a tree theme
- we are asking people to let us know where their favourite trees are so we can incorporate them into our routes
- we hope to begin early December

Insurance

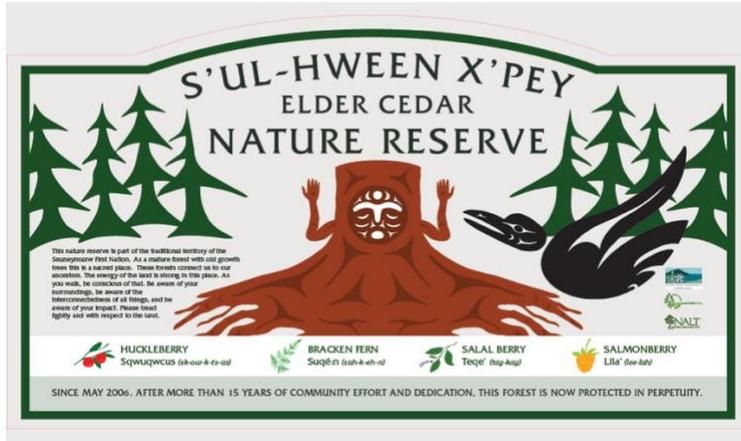
- it's renewal time and I am just clarifying our trail licence coverage since it is not specified in any of the documentation, except the Hellenius property, I think because they requested a copy of the insurance certificate
- I have submitted the list of current trail licenses
- I think it would be a good idea to have insurance certificates for each of the 19 licence properties I will follow up with Megson Fitzpatrick

7.5 CONSERVATION:

- The owners of a covenant have made a request concerning the trees on the property, which is being reviewed by the ITC and GaLTT as co-covenant holders. More details *in camera*.
- The Conservation Committee is reviewing a large version of the IT Gabriola Island Development Potential map (that identifies 490 vacant lots) from a conservation perspective.
- We are continuing to provide support to the Museum about the McRae Covenant. Landry sent draft sign text to the Museum representatives in September for the two entrances to the covenant. Once the text is agreed upon, Jemma Green from ITC will write text for a sign for the moss meadow area. The signs are intended to inform people they are in a conservation covenant area, what that means and how they can help protect the sensitive environment.
- GaLTT received a request from Scott Colbourne to potentially lead the implementation of the Trees 4 Tomorrow program this fall, linked to the Nature Stewards program. Simone Levesque led the initial program in the spring on Gabriola. The program originated on Hornby with the objective of planting 10,000 trees annually on the Gulf Islands over the next few years. Simone planted about 1,000 trees in the spring. Ken Gurr and Landry met with Scott in September. After discussions with Ken Gurr, Brockley, Johnston and Lou Skinner, we agreed that the time was too short and resources too stretched to take this on now, with Nature Stewards just getting going. We agreed to look at it again in the spring with more lead time.
- The next LTABC webinar is Thursday, November 4th, 11:00 am to noon: Managing Landowner Expectations: The Challenge of Covenants. It is an opportunity to learn more about being a covenant holder. The webinar is free for board members. Register at: <https://ltabc.ca/programs/seminars-and-workshops/>
- All covenant monitoring and reporting is now complete for the year.

- A beautiful new sign for the entrance to S’ul-hween X’pey has been designed by Snuneymuxw First Nation artist Eliot Hall-White. ITC will now see about fabrication.
- The health report video is now complete and up on the Gabriola Health Foundation website. Landry appears near the end of the video talking about ways people can help with conservation: <https://www.ghcs>

NEW Elder Cedar sign:



7.7 FUND RAISING: No report this month

7.7 GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society):

Attended GILSS board meeting Sept 27th. The board is working on a revised application to obtain charitable tax status with CRA. This will lead to seeking significant donations for buying land to meet two main GILSS objectives: Purchasing land to build homes to lease/rent to low-income Gabriola residents and farm land for those living in poverty to develop their agricultural skills and support their food needs.

7.8 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT: No report this month.

7.9 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

Membership numbers	
1 year Single	54
5 year Single	48
1 year Family	61
5 year Family	83
LIFETIME	6
Monthly AFT	17
Monthly Canada Helps	19
Monthly CCCU direct	1
Subtotal	289
Expired	9
Current total - up 2 from last month	280

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Hulstein to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

7.10 NATURE STEWARDS:

Activity Recap

- Small brochures are being distributed by realtors and some landscapers and are also available at the garden centres and North Road Sports.
- All reports from NS program feedback from Farmer's Market has been very positive. And we added names to prospect list.
- I've been in contact with all the folks on the "Prospective Landholders for NS" list to qualify them for follow-ups, plus a few other great sites I've approached people directly. We have about 35 landholders to visit and determine participation. Two are completed and waiting for signs
- NS survey tool has been revised. In the queue is signs production, maps for the field binders and ensuring all the most updated support material for the field binder contents is on the NS Google shared drive. We're getting there!
- Anne and I met with IT Trustee Scott Colbourne re: Trees 4 Tomorrow. We will revisit this in spring re: time and space to be involved.
- I am reviewing and have proposed I rewrite draft of ITC-authored letter to Gabriola properties. I've alerted Jemma and am awaiting reply to this and timeline (end of Oct/early November mailout). You will recall, this is something ITC is heading up as part of our collaboration/their funding, offering to us combining NS-NAPTEP-SAR messages and insert our small brochure with this mailing. Timing and message tone are *so* important here! I want to make sure this is as best as can be, as we are co-signing.

7.11 POSAC (Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee): No report this month.

7.12 SHARE THE TRAILS:

There has been on going communication with Treaty Negotiations Policy Advisor Ajay Pradhan, Georgia Fenton and land custodian Peter Lioyd regarding the signage project for off-road vehicles in the Federally held Snuneymux'w Lands on Gabriola Island.

Signs are ordered and Kerry will meet up with Peter to discuss the best access points to post them. This is timely as the dirt bike riders are back lately riding in the land off Tait and Degnen roads.

Regarding Gabriola's Active Transportation Connection; planning has been undertaken by Islands Trust and the RDN with a contract to Arrowsmith Biosphere/Vancouver Island University to explore options for connecting the new Village Trail with the ferry for pedestrians and cyclists, and to define alternative routes to get to the Farmers Market and village centre from the ferry. We provided a draft map of the Potlatch subdivision plan showing the connection through the new strata road to Burnside and discussed the private land connection through to the Garden Homes. They provided a number of conceptual drawings, stressing that their draft report is still very preliminary.

7.13 TRAILS: Trail trimming is on-going. Work parties:

- To install new mesh on the boardwalk on the Joyce Lockwood Trail. This was to replace the old rusty worn-out mesh that was remove during a previous work party
- A 3-day work party to install a 27-metre section of boardwalk on the Peterson-McDonald connector trail. This completes the multi-year project of approximately 170M of boardwalk. This year's project was partially funded with a grant from the Gabriola Recreation Society. This year's grant was the third one GaLTT has received from GRS for this work. The grants from GRS have

been greatly appreciated by GaLTT to help fund the work on this important connector trail. Special mention to Peter & Don.

7.14 TREASURER:

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the 9 months ended September 30, 2021, are included with this report.

Our financial position continues to be strong. All payments are current, and receivables are less than 90 days old. We have received \$36,600 in revenue while spending just \$26,400 leaving an excess of receipts over disbursements of \$10,200.

BUDGET 2022

It is that time of year yet again, so we need to prepare a budget for 2022. It is easy to look at last year's budget and increase it by a little or leave it the same and in many organizations that would be all that is possible. That is not us! We have accumulated surpluses from past years and stand to have one from this year. We have the financial capability to do more and I sense our volunteers are ready to pitch in as well. We have a strategic planning visioning session coming up soon which will influence the budget as well. Please give careful thought to your committee's budget for 2022 and include all the regular things as well as some of your wish list.

ACTION: Please have a first draft of your committee's 2022 budget to me by October 31 so we can look at a draft 2022 budget in our November meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

These ongoing items are carried over from last month:

- GaLTT will have a workshop to consider the capacity of the organization and with reference to our strategic plan consider the uses for our accumulated surpluses of about \$ 79,000. Following the workshop GaLTT will decide what portion, if any, of those funds will be allocated to programs and the portion(s) allocated to Land Acquisition and other longer-term objectives.
- A committee of Rob Brockley, Pat Jacobsen and Frank Shoemaker will consider the services the Nanaimo and Vancouver foundations (and potentially others) offer to charities for investment of our funds not currently required for operations.
- The format of the statements will follow the samples reviewed from Galiano and Salt Spring land trusts.
- We will engage an independent professional accountant to review our statements and give a Notice to Reader report

8. **IN CAMERA:** Landry requested that the meeting move in camera to discuss work on an existing covenant, an issue relating to Gabriola Housing Society and a future proposed covenant.

9. MOTION ARISING FROM IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

MOTION: Proposed by Landry, seconded by Brockley, that the Board approve a Conservation Committee recommendation to allow an Owner's Reserved Rights request to conduct viewscape maintenance in accordance with the terms of the covenant on the Bachmann NAPTEP Covenant property. CARRIED.

ACTION: Landry will write to the Covenant landholders about the Board decision.

10. Meeting was adjourned by Brockley at 8:39pm:

Minutes recorded by Sarah Kopjar.

Board of Directors Meeting; Tuesday November 9, 2021, via Zoom.

Participating: Rob Brockley, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Alan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

Regrets: Rebecca Furnell, Nola Johnston, Barry Moerkerken.

1. **Brockley called the meeting to order at 7:03pm from his home.** *We acknowledge that our meeting and all GaLTT's activities take place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. This land is not ours to own, it is ours to protect and restore. We are stewards of these lands.*

2. **AGENDA:**

Agenda was amended to add another letter written and to delete -Amenity donation program and add Board Workshop.

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Jacobsen to accept the agenda as amended. CARRIED.

3. **MINUTES:**

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Shoemaker to accept the minutes for the October 12, 2021, Board meeting as previously circulated. CARRIED.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) **Gabriola Historical and Museum Society grant support letter from GaLTT.**
- b) **Letter to the RDN re Coats Marsh weir repair/replacement and reply from Tom Osborne (general manager, Parks and Rec)**
- c) **Letter written to the Canadian Revenue Agency in support of Gabriola Island Land Steward Society.**

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Joint Land Trusts review of Island's Trust Policy Statement. Brockley said a draft letter has been written and circulated to other land trusts, waiting for feedback. Jacobsen asked about educating GaLTT members, involving them in discussion and suggest they write letters on their own behalf. There is no time set yet for public input.

Board Workshop. Brockley and all participants agreed that our first workshop on October 30th was well done and valuable. A good start to identifying GaLTT's mandate and vision. The transcription of the notes from this workshop are expected soon in preparation for the second workshop on November 27th.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2022 draft budget. A draft budget has been circulated. There are slight increases overall. There was discussion about which grants might be applied for and what GaLTT can spend money on. Discussion then evolved to the recent accessibility improvements done at Twin Beaches and the fact that BC Parks and MOTI have not completed their portion of the work.

ACTION: Shoemaker asked all board members to review the draft and comment as needed so that it will be ready to be adopted at the December or January meeting and ready for presentation at the AGM.

Link Island Covenant. Landry reported that the opportunity for GaLTT to become a co-covenant holder for Link Island is an exciting development. This donation comes under the Ecological Gift Program. There is an existing covenant that has to be extinguished and a new covenant put in place. Islands Trust Conservancy will become the owner, Nanaimo & Area Land Trust will be the primary covenant holder and GaLTT the co-covenant holder. Link Island is ecologically significant there will be no public access allowed. There will be a bit of work to control some invasive plants but the family who have owned it have been good stewards of the land. GaLTT will be responsible for monitoring. \$5000 is needed in Stewardship Funds for monitoring and potential legal defence.

MOTION: Proposed Landry and seconded by Gehlbach that the GaLTT Board agree to become a co-covenant holder on the Link Island covenant with the following stipulations: that members of

the Conservation Committee visit Link Island and satisfactorily assess the property using the new GaLTT Criteria for Assessing Prospective Properties for Conservation Covenant and that the covenant is reviewed by a lawyer familiar with conservation covenant co-holding and that if the above Criteria are met and GaLTT signs the covenant then GaLTT's Treasurer shall transfer \$5000 from General Operating Funds to the Conservation Stewardship Fund.

Discussion regarding the motion: Skinner asked about possible expectation of on-going costs. None are anticipated.

MOTION CARRIED.

Insurance coverage for volunteers. Shoemaker reported that Lou Skinner, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, raised the question about whether the current insurance policy, through the Land Trust Association of BC, offers enough coverage for GaLTT's volunteers. Shoemaker agreed that the coverage amount seems too low.

ACTION: Jacobsen will contact LTABC to inquire about the coverage for volunteers and whether it can be increased or supplemented.

Conservation/land acquisition draft policies. Landry reported that significant revisions and additional policies have been completed to meet the 2019 Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. The board has discussed the revisions a few times and they are now in final draft, recommended by the Conservation Committee. Some key changes include: a general policy to not take final title on a real estate property, with some exceptions; the need for a 75% majority from the Board for all land transactions (covenants, land acquisition and financial contributions towards land acquisition); and clarification of eligible expenses from the Land Acquisition Fund and the Conservation Stewardship Fund. Once the policies are approved, work will be required to complete the Criteria for Assessing Properties and the Conservation Covenant Stewardship Guidelines will need to be written.

ACTION: Landry asked that Board members review these policy revisions and vote on them at the December meeting.

Expiring terms for Board members. Brockley noted that 5 Board members are nearing the end of their 2-year term. He asked that they consider if they plan to take on another term.

December Board meeting location. Gehlbach offered her home for The Board's December meeting and potluck.

ACTION: Brockley will check COVID restrictions and poll members one week in advance to decide whether the meeting will be in person or via Zoom.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS: previously circulated to the Board in full; summarized here.

7.1 PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE:

Administration

- Contract amendment for Ken Gurr
- Support letter to Gabriola Historical and Museum Society for grant application to BC Arts Council for a nature trail
- Letter to CRA is support of application by Gabriola Island Land Stewards for charitable status
- Prepared committee structure and business activities material for board workshop
- Prepared GaLTT activity report for Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Commission meeting
- Prepared joint letter from GaLTT and Islands Trust Conservancy to landholders re conservation initiatives
- Prepared and submitted ad for Land Trust Association of BC 's 25th anniversary almanac

- Letter to RDN about expediting Coats Marsh weir repair/replacement

Correspondence and Discussions

- With Elaine McCulloch (cc Vanessa Craig) about completion of Statutory Right of Way trail connections though Mallett subdivision
- With Jordan VanderKlok (RDN Planner) about Cox CP mapping and SRW trail connections
- With Kate Emmings and Jemma Green of ITC about joint letter to landholders
- With Ken Gurr about Nature Stewards program planning and budgeting
- With Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley and Maria Malmgren about potential Board workshop(s) to review mandate and capacity issues
- With Michael Dunn (Mayne Island Conservancy) about contents of joint statement from land trusts re IT draft Policy Statement
- With Nick Doe about Coats Marsh water drawdown
- With Guy Moreau about Coats Marsh water drawdown

Planning/Meetings

- With Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Maria Malmgren, and Anne Landry to plan two board workshops
- With Frank Shoemaker and Pat Jacobsen re investments
- With Paul Chapman (NALT), Anne Landry, and Nola Johnston about potential conservation covenant
- With Anne Landry, Nola Johnston, Paul Chapman (NALT), and Kate Emmings (ITC) re conservation covenant opportunity
- Attended POSAC meeting on November 1st
- Meeting with Nature Stewards committee
- With Executive and Hugh Skinner re succession issues
- Field visits with Chris van Ossenbruggen to identify potential trail connections in Cox CP

7.2 ACCESSIBILITY: No report this month

7.3 AMENITY/BENCH/SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

This is a committee of one so far. Kopjar has been thinking about it a lot and deciding on next steps. She needs to set up meetings with some of the other GaLTT committees to determine possible collaborations and goals. Decisions that evolve from the strategic planning sessions will influence the direction of this committee and those decisions should be made first.

7.4 COMMUNICATIONS:

New website

- Content and structure are now up to date and complete. The site is currently being reviewed and checked for technical glitches. The old site will be shut down and the new site launched later this month.

Email messages were sent to:

- members about our recent board activities.
- volunteers about upcoming invasives-replacement work in Drumbeg (Nov 7) and removal at Twin Beaches (Dec 5).

Facebook pages

- Paula Brent continues to manage posts on our two Facebook pages. She has “boosted” the new FB page locally, to invite participation. The old FB group page will be shut down shortly to avoid confusion, especially since FB recently announced loosening access and freedom to post on group-participation pages. Shutting down the old FB page will need to be done by the volunteer who originally set it up for GaLTT, unless she is willing to monitor and respond to the posts. *See also, Lou’s Community Engagement report.*

Paid work?

- Depending on the outcome of current Board discussions about outsourcing some of our work in the future, GaLTT should consider hiring Paula Brent to manage our social media. We have been impressed by her energy, messaging style, and grasp of GaLTT's values and activities. She is currently researching possible grants that might cover her pay for her current work. Depending on the extent of her skill set, we also hope that she might in future take over the management and updating of the new website once it is up and running

7.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Silent Soundwalk #1 with Dinah D

- Pre-registration went well. There were 30 participants.
- Donations totalled \$265 which covered the honorarium and purchase of journals. There will be three more this winter, the next being in early December. There are a few things to work on including slowing the walk down and keeping people together.

Winter Walk About 2022

- Expect to launch it in early January. There will be ten new walks on a tree theme. The format will be the same as 2020/2021 where the PDF with the map and description will be emailed out to GaLTT members on Wednesdays. Joining GaLTT will be promoted.
- We are considering offering a guided walk each Saturday for the walk of the week.
- The grade 6/7 class will paint the trail head rocks for us.

Trail map

- Inventory is at about 835. 850 were distributed in 2021.

Nature Stewards

- Up and running and to date 10 properties have qualified as conserving at least 30% native habitat and 2 as wildlife friendly gardens. Six people are carrying out the nature steward visits; two more recruits are needed so we can move through the inspection wait list.
- The grade 6/7 teacher, Jen Holme is keen to get her class involved with GaLTT and ideas will be explored in the new year.
- Lou and Ken attended a zoom presentation with the Saltspring Island Conservancy, fire department and a forester about how healthy forests can reduce the spread of fire. A small group will meet with Hayley and Will from Gabriola's fire department to discuss how our differing messages can coexist.

Insurance

- Megson Fitzpatrick, our insurance agency is now providing us with Certificates of Insurance for all our trail licence properties as well as the RDN, MoTI and Islands Trust Conservancy. We have asked them for a quote to increase the coverage for our volunteers in case of injury and whether it is possible to carry additional insurance over and above the insurance provided through the Land Trust Alliance of BC.

Facebook

- Followers are migrating from our old group page to our new official page and GaLTT will need to decide what to do with the old page since it is becoming confusing. Although it is providing a useful place for people to post info about environmental issues, resources and workshops, no one is available to moderate it. Facebook continues to be a good place to advise the community about GaLTT activities.

Monthly email mini newsletter

- To update members about GaLTT's activities. The Communications Committee did one during 2021 that was well received. The Community Engagement Committee is willing to do one based on the monthly reports to the board, if the Communications Committee is too busy. It would be good to regularly update members on what initiatives their memberships support.

Speaker

- In early 2022, we will discuss having a speaker as suggested by the conservation committee and will investigate the possibility of developing more programs at the school involving GaLTT volunteers.

7.6 CONSERVATION:

- GaLTT has been invited to become a co-covenant holder on a 53 acre covenant in the Gabriola Island Trust Area. Zoom meetings have been held between committee members Landry, Brockley and Johnston with NALT Executive Director Paul Chapman and ITC Manager Kate Emmings. It is an ecologically significant property
- Landry sent a letter to the owners of a Covenant, giving permission concerning trees on the property as per the *in camera* proposal agreed to by the Board at the October board meeting.
- Support continues to be provided to the Museum about the McRae Covenant. The entrance sign text is close to final, and Jemma Green from ITC will now write text for a sign for the moss meadow area.
- The most recent LTABC webinar (Thursday, November 4th) was entitled “Managing Landowner Expectations: The Challenge of Covenants”. Cathy Armstrong, the Land Conservancy Executive Director described a recent court case where a succession landholder went to court to have a conservation covenant removed. The covenant remains in place with some good lessons about landholder relations and the importance of record-keeping.
- Revisions to the GaLTT conservation policies (Policy 9, etc.) will be presented for approval at the December board meeting.
- Landry provided edits for the conservation related website pages for the new, improved GaLTT website.
- As a follow-up to the committee’s meeting with Dean Gaudry at Wilkinson Way, potential trail licence information was sent to the Trail Committee for action.

7.7 FUND RAISING: No report this month

7.8 GILSS (Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society):

- For the last month GILSS have been busily working on obtaining charitable donation status with CRA. The GILSS Board has committed to obtain land for low-cost housing and agricultural plots for Gabriolans living in low income/poverty conditions. This will involve cooperative connections with other agencies and individuals on Gabriola who have the financial resources and experience in raising large amounts of money. CRA status will enable donors of property or funds, tax benefits, in addition to the satisfaction of addressing the increasing poverty stresses of Gabriolans.

7.9 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT:

Drumbeg Provincial Park -- Invasive Plant Removal/Restoration Work

- Kristen Miskelly, part-owner of SatinFlower Nursery, brought 450 plugs and some seed in early November. Site preparation had been done in advance. Erica and Katy from BC Parks also came for the day. Main purpose of visit was for Kristen to assess the site readiness, advise on site prep and planting/seeding techniques.
- November 7 -- first winter work party, planting the rest of the plugs, finish seeding, pull small broom and cut Orchard grass.
- More work to fix plot posts/ropes and assess native/invasive species growth in plots in next few weeks.
- Periwinkle infestation--ongoing emails and discussion, no resolution. Waiting for BC Parks staff to decide course of action. Likely will use combination of chemical application and manual removal.

Follow-up to concern that invasive plants will re-establish if bare soil left in Queequeg Park

- Yann Gagnon met with Alison in person at the park in July and said RDN is willing to provide native plants and seeds for volunteers to plant/water/monitor, but not until other local projects are completed (Village Way, Capt Ahab access), which will likely mean a few more months delay at

least. Gagnon wants GaLTT to be involved so there is continuity. We have agreed. The committee will liaise with Gagnon.

Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed

- Following up with Coastal Invasive Species Committee (ISC) through the summer and with Vanessa Craig about the RDN support for the program that allows ISC to treat hogweed and knotweed at no cost to landowners. RDN is now participating in the program again for 2021/22
- Have commitment from Coastal ISC that two people will come to Gabriola for up to 4 days in late April to treat with chemicals infestations where the landowners have signed an approval form. All costs borne by ISC. Sent an email to the landowners with process required and am monitoring.
- More areas with infestations of giant hogweed or Japanese knotweed continue to be identified.

Invasive Species Workshop Follow-up

- Gave Nola the list and contact information of landscapers and gardeners who attended GaLTT's invasive species workshop to be included on the new website after requests received from the public.

Disposal of Invasive Plants -- Pick-up and drop off April and June

- Trying to arrange drop-off and pickup days at the South Firehall again for 2022. No luck yet.

Outreach and Communication

- Responded to emails and FB questions from public about invasive species removal/disposal and about Native Plant Depot.
- Sent N P Depot info to Garden Club for their newsletter and posted on FB Gabian Gardeners

7.10 MEMBERSHIPS: Furnell had previously circulated to the board the list of new and renewing members and donors in the last month.

1S	56
5S	49
1F	62
5F	84
LIFETIME	6
Monthly AFT	17
Monthly Canada Helps	19
Monthly CCCU direct	1
Subtotal	294
Expired	12
Current total	282

MOTION: Proposed by Shoemaker, seconded Wojcik to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

- Jacobsen noted that in the last year the total number of members has not changed much, each month there are new members but almost as many expired memberships. She asked if GaLTT asks why people become members and why they let their membership expire. This could be useful information to help improve GaLTT services and potentially increase members and donors.

ACTION: Kopjar will talk to Furnell about memberships and finding out why people join and why others fail to renew.

7.11 NATURE STEWARDS: No report this month

7.12 POSAC (Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee): Edited for relevance to GaLTT mandate. Rob Brockley provided an update on GaLTT's recent activities and plans.

- *Coats Marsh Regional Park*: Following recommendations from the May 2020 weir assessment report, a siphon will be installed in the fall of 2021 to manage the water level of Coats Marsh in anticipation of the replacement of the old weir structure planned in 2023-2024.
- *Descanso Bay Regional Park*: Recent upgrades include new campsite posts, signage upgrades and parking lot improvements. A number of hazard trees have been removed. Plans to replace the entrance building in 2022 and storage shed in 2021.
- *707 Community Park*: Wayfinding signage and location maps have been installed.
- *Degnen Bay Stairs Update*: This is currently an undeveloped MoTI ROW that has a fire department pipe running from Maple Lane to Degnen Bay Road. The RDN has received a Gabriola Fire Department request to develop the ROW with steps. The RDN has commissioned an engineering feasibility study report. The results will be made public after the November 18 Electoral Area Services Committee meeting.
- *Cox Community Park addition / Statutory Right of Way Trail Development – Mallet Creek Subdivision*: The subdivision is now registered with BC Land Titles Office. The RDN staff indicated the Management Plan process will commence in 2022 and that trail-building within the Burnside – to Cox Park SRW would not begin until the management planning process is completed. The SRW trail work is not currently included in the 2022 Capital Plan.
- POSAC members stressed the importance of beginning SRW trail development (including completing the trail connection) to Lockinvar Lane as quickly as possible and in advance of the Management Plan process.
- POSAC members asked that the adjacent Paisley Place Community Park be included in the Cox Community Park Management Plan process.
- *Captain Ahab Terrace Trail*: The RDN staff have commenced off-site construction of two (2) bridges that are to be placed at park entry points. RDN staff will approach GalTT to request assistance in routing and building a linear trail through the park.
- *707 Community Park – Fuel Assessment*: <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdn-wildfire-resiliency>

Wildfire Resiliency Initiative - Fuel Management in 707 Community Park. November 4, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. – Zoom.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan - Electoral Area B. November 10, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. – Zoom.

- *Joyce Lockwood Community Park Stairs*: RDN staff are currently re-assessing the feasibility of installing new beach access box stairs (with gabian cage or removable aluminum stairs/ramp) in Joyce Lockwood Community Park near the location of the previous stairs.

Area B POSAC Meeting Schedule, 2022: Proposed 2022 meeting schedule dates are: February 16, May 4, September 28.

7.13 SHARE THE TRAILS:

New business:

- There are a couple of dog poo bag dispenser boxes installed in parks with GaLTT's logo on them from a time when we cooperated with the Ratepayers on this project. The Share the Trails committee proposes this action: to research where the boxes are located, what bag supplies are worth to stock, and to design some simple signage to place at the boxes along the lines of "Pick it up and take it home". To bring a proposal to the Board to stock and maintain these boxes at some key locations
- Horse trailer parking really does not exist at any of our parks. A local rider frequently parks at the fire gate on the big corner on North Rd. or at the end of Fisher Rd to access the 707. She has had complaints from other users and has had other cars park up so close that she cannot load her horse when she returns to the trailer after a ride. These are common issues for equestrians in other areas and highlight the need for parking planning that include areas for horse trailers in the future.

Old business:

- There is on-going communication with Treaty Negotiations Policy Advisor Ajay Pradhan, Georgia Fenton and land custodian Peter Lloyd regarding the signage project off-road vehicles in the Federally held Snuneymux'w Lands on Gabriola Island. The signs are now printed, and Peter is arranging for Ace Courier to deliver them to him.
- There are some motor bikes out and about in the Crown land areas off Tait Road but no recent reports from the Federal Treaty lands on the north side of North Road.

7.14 TRAILS AND BOARDWALKS:

Work parties:

- Only one work party this month, to remove existing and install new decking on the Malaspina—James Way boardwalk

Trail Trimming:

- Fawn, McCollum, Fisher, Coats Drive South, and Wilkinson Way, 707 Park

7.15 TREASURER:

Financial Statements

- Statements of Financial Position, Receipts and Disbursements and Receipts and Disbursements by Class all for the 10 months ended October 31, 2021 were circulated to the board.
- In October we received \$ 4,515 while we spent \$ 2,539 thereby increasing our net surplus for the ten months to \$ 12,728.

Budget 2022

- The first draft of the budget for 2022 also accompanies this report. On a first run we are showing a deficit of \$2,030. Given our experience over the last two years we have budgeted receipts fairly accurately while actual disbursements have been less than budgeted. For 2022 without changes to the budget we would probably again have a surplus of receipts over disbursements.
- Please look this first draft over and contact me with any comments you have.

Insurance

- We have renewed our insurance coverages for another year (to Nov 1, 2022). The coverage sheets from the policy accompany this report. I discussed the adequacy of the coverage with Lou Skinner who looks after our insurance. The coverage is part of a group policy for the Land Trusts of BC.
- My concern is that the coverages seem low. I am not an insurance expert, but the stated limits appear inadequate. I would like to see someone with knowledge of insurance review the coverage. With houses that a few years ago were valued in the hundreds of thousands now valued in the millions I do not think the coverage limits have kept pace. Do we buy insurance independent of the Land Trust Group policy, or do we encourage the Land Trust Group to review their policy and increase the coverages significantly?

Investing our funds

- A glance at the Statement of Financial Position shows us with cash holdings of \$ 125,000. About \$ 80,000 of that is in a GIC with CCCU earning about one third of one percent. It matures December 23, 2021. Rob, Pat and I have been examining what alternatives GaLTT has to improve the return on these funds. The group is actively considering placing some of the funds with either the Nanaimo or Vancouver Foundations to be included in their investment portfolios which are earning about six percent. There is not reward without risk, so we are actively reviewing the magnitude of fluctuations in these foundations' well

managed portfolios before making recommendations to the board. We will have more to report at our next meeting.

8. Next meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6 p.m. Location TBA
9. Meeting was adjourned by Brockley at 8:35pm:

Minutes recorded by Sarah Kopjar

Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday December 14, 2021 at 1787 El Verano Drive, Gabriola & by Zoom

Participating in person: Rob Brockley, Rebecca Furnell, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Barry Moerkerken, Allan Posthuma, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik.

By Zoom: Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus. **Guest:** Lou Skinner (Chair of the Community Engagement Committee)

Regrets: Lars Hulstein

- 1) **Brockley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.** We meet on the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw
- 2) **AGENDA:** modified to add under New Business c). ability to receive securities
 3. **MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Johnston, to accept the agenda as modified. CARRIED**
- 3) **MINUTES:**
 4. **MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Johnston to accept the Minutes of November 09, 2021 as circulated. CARRIED**
 - 5.
- 4) **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - Letter to potential donors, since this appeal was written there have been substantial donations received.
 - A reminder letter was sent to the RDN re Queequeg restoration project. Work needs to begin soon before the invasive species re-establish.
- 5) **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Brockley and Landry met with Dyan and Maria to ask if they can facilitate a third workshop to complete discussions about capacity issues. This workshop will take place in late January or early February 2022. There will be an additional cost for this workshop. Planning will begin with talking to Committee Chairs to find out what activities they want to do but can't with current capacity.
 - Brockley asked if the board thought we should bring GaLTT's Mission, Mandate and By-law changes that have come out of the first two workshops to the spring 2022 AGM. After discussion about the need and tight timeline it was decided that these matters would be better dealt with at an extraordinary general meeting a month or two after the AGM.
 - Further to the joint review of the Islands Trust policy statement; Brockley worked on the letter and previously circulated the updated version.

MOTION: Proposed by Gehlbach, seconded by Johnston that GaLTT be a signatory to the joint review of the draft Island Trust Policy Statement undertaken by several conservancies within the Trust area. CARRIED
 - Discussion continued from last meeting about the budget. Frank will circulate the draft budget to the Committee Chairs for comment. It needs to be adopted at the January meeting so it can be presented at the AGM. The budget can be amended throughout the year as needed.
 - Jacobsen and Lou Skinner talked to LTABC and a representative from the insurance provider to inquire about increased coverage for volunteers. We could double the coverage for quadruple the cost but even then, the coverage would be insufficient. If the cost is shared by more participants, then the cost per individual Trust is less. They were given some useful information about wording and use of waivers. L. Skinner uploaded all documents to Google Drive under Resources so Board members can view them.

ACTION: Jacobsen and L. Skinner will inquire further and ask other members of the LTABC if they want increased coverage too.

- Landry gave an update on the Link Island Covenant. Johnston and Landry have been to view the property which is one of the criteria before signing the covenant. The Conservation Committee recommends that the need for review by a lawyer be waived in this case because this is not an entirely new covenant just changes to an existing covenant. A user agreement for the donor's family is being worked on; names of family members will be specified. Eventually Link Island will become a nature reserve only with no access allowed except to fulfill the terms of the covenant.

6)

MOTION 1: Proposed Landry and seconded by Moerkerken that the motion approved November 9, 2021 be modified as follows: that the GaLTT Board agree to become a co-covenant holder on the Link Island covenant with the following stipulations: that members of the Conservation Committee visit Link Island and satisfactorily assess the property using the new GaLTT *Criteria for Assessing Prospective Properties for Conservation Covenant*; that GaLTT receives authorization from the Land Title Office to hold a covenant on Link Island; and that if the above criteria are met and GaLTT signs the covenant, then GaLTT's Treasurer shall transfer \$5000 from General Operating Funds to the Conservation Stewardship Fund. CARRIED.

MOTION 2: Proposed by Landry, seconded by Moerkerken and recommended by the Conservation Committee, that the GaLTT Board write a letter of permission that would allow the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) to sign an Agreement for Right of Use, having a reference date of November 10, 2021, between the Swift Family and ITC, allowing uses, as set out in the Agreement, that would otherwise be prevented in the covenant, subject to approval from the Environment and Climate Change Canada Ecological Gifts Program. CARRIED

MOTION 3: Proposed by Landry, seconded by Shoemaker and recommended by the Conservation Committee that the GaLTT Board approve the Management Plan for S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve, approved by the ITC Board on October 5, 2021. CARRIED

MOTION 4: Proposed by Landry, seconded by Gehlbach as recommended by the Conservation Committee that the Board adopt the following policies and eligible expenses to replace Operating Policy 9 – Land Acquisition, Conservation Agreements and Stewardship and appendices A and B:

- Revised Policy 9 v10 – Land Acquisition and Conservation Covenants – Evaluation, Selection and Establishment; Conservation Covenant Stewardship
- New Policy 10 v6; Land Stewardship
- New Policy 11 v6; Conservation Covenant

In addition, adopt Land Acquisition Fund Eligible Expenses v5 and Conservation Stewardship Fund Eligible Expenses v6 that require Board approval, but which sit outside the policy document. CARRIED

- Discussion re reasons why membership has not increased recently and finding out why some members choose not to renew. Furnell described the renewal notices she sends and suggested that 3 reminders are enough. There will be further discussion about changes to communication with members.

7) NEW BUSINESS:

- Membership Committee requests a motion to accept this month's new members as previously circulated.

MOTION: Proposed by Furnell, seconded by Shoemaker to approve the listed applicants for new and renewed membership of GaLTT. CARRIED.

- There is a fundraising campaign for the Healing Canoe project happening at the school. A Coast Salish carver is creating a canoe and the school kids are involved in the ceremonies around its creation and are learning about indigenous culture and teachings.

MOTION: Proposed by H. Skinner, seconded by Johnston that, to support the spirit of reconciliation on Gabriola, GaLTT will donate \$1000 to the Canoe Project being sponsored by the Intergenerational Land Based Learning for Reconciliation committee.

There were questions asked as to whether GaLTT is allowed to donate to other organisations and whether this supports our mandate to support community and reconciliation with First Nations. The answers are yes.

Motion CARRIED.

ACTION: L. Skinner will arrange with Shoemaker to make this donation

- Update on Queequeg Park restoration project. An email, signed by Brockley, was sent to Yann Gagnon, Manager, Park Services to confirm GaLTT's willingness to partner with RDN to remediate an area of roughly 442 square metres that had been heavily infested with Daphne. On December 14th Gunn met with Gagnon at the park to complete an assessment and confirm GaLTT will submit a proposed plant list for RDN approval.
- Shoemaker reported that a donor asked if they could donate securities to GaLTT before 2021-year end. It can be done through Canada Helps but their deadline for such a donation is December 17th and also a portion of the donation is retained by Canada Helps. Shoemaker suggested GaLTT set up an account to facilitate acceptance of this and future similar donations.

MOTION: Proposed by Shoemaker, seconded by Jacobsen that the Executive set up a brokerage account to receive securities. CARRIED.

ACTION: Shoemaker will initiate setting up the brokerage account immediately.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE/President

Administration

- Thank you notes to two donors
- Arranged venue and snacks for November 27th board meeting at Haven
- Reviewed Link Island draft covenant
- Reviewed S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) updated management plan
- Reviewed GaLTT Constitution and Bylaws and noted potential changes
- Wrote draft letter to membership and supporters requesting year-end donations
- Signed letter (drafted by Libby Gunn) to Yann Gagnon (RDN) about Queequeg restoration project

Correspondence and Discussions

- RDN staff
 - With Chris van Ossenbruggen about SRW trails and trail connections in Cox Community Park
- Islands Trust Conservancy
 - With Jemma Green about ITC partnership agreement and contract
- Others
 - With Michael Dunn (Mayne Island Conservancy) about revisions to the draft joint review of Islands Trust Policy Statement
 - With Ann Eriksson (Thetis Island Conservancy) about adapting GaLTT's Nature Stewards brochure for their own program

- With Mary Holdgrafer (Green Burial Exploratory Committee) about potential collaboration on land acquisition

Planning/Meetings

- With Anne Landry about Link Island conservation covenant
- With Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Maria Malmgren, and Anne Landry about planning for November 27th board workshop
- With Frank Shoemaker, Pat Jacobsen, and Laura Biernet of Nanaimo Foundation about investment possibilities
- With Frank Shoemaker, Pat Jacobsen, and Mandy Pui of Vancouver Foundation about investment possibilities
- With Executive about possible need for bylaw changes
- With Hayley (GVFD) and Nature Stewards committee members about cross messaging and potential collaboration
- With Conservation Committee
- With Nature Stewards Committee
- With Chris van Ossenbruggen and Pam Newton (RDN, GIS Technician) about new trail route in Cox CP

ACCESSIBILITY

- Landry sent an email to BC Parks staff reminding them of their commitment to reposition the concrete barriers in the Twin Beaches parking lots to make it easier for a wheelchair to access the trails (they can now but it could be improved) and designate disabled parking spots in each parking lot. BC Parks is going through more staff changes so it is unclear when this might get done.

AMENITY/BENCH/SPONSORSHIP

- Kopjar visited the site of the pilot project bench; the bench is in as new condition. Rain water had drained to the rock the bench sits on and formed a pool around one bench leg so some soil was moved to allow better drainage.
- Work has been done on the Amenity Donation Application Form and the Amenity Donation Program information to be included on the GaLTT website. Kopjar has circulated these draft documents for comments from other board members.
- Dave Neads, the woodworker who built the pilot project bench is interested in building more benches in the next year and Kopjar is contacting people who had previously expressed interest.

COMMUNICATIONS

- **New website:** A professional has volunteered to check the technical aspects of the new website.
- **Existing website:** We continue to update the existing website with upcoming events and event reports.
- **Brochures:** text and layout work on the
 - GaLTT brochure
 - An end-of-year report and plea for support from members and volunteers.
- **Email messages**
 - To members and volunteers summarizing the year's activities and seeking their support
 - To volunteers about upcoming invasives work at Twin Beaches (Dec 5).
- **Facebook pages:** Paula Brent has completed the transition to our new GaLTT Facebook page where only we can post. Our old page has been renamed "Gabriola Nature" and retains its old broad membership and participation. Islands Trust, and various Gabriolan birders and foragers post there regularly.
- **Signage:** Nola helped design signage for the McRae property

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- A second **Sound Walk** with Dinah Dee was held on Saturday December 4, in the clamshell area, starting beside the cemetery which was a lovely setting. Dinah set the scene by talking about indigenous history in the area. 16 people participated, with four GaLTT volunteers helping. Feedback was positive and we raised \$225. We are assessing whether to do another walk in February as we had been talking about a series of four.
- **The Winter Walkabout 2022-TREES** will begin with promotion beginning January 5 and self-guided walks starting January 12 and continuing until March 16th. Trail Journals will again be available at North Road Sports and they will provide 3 prizes (a day pack, head lamp and water bottle). Seven committee members are creating the routes and writing the descriptions with Leanne Hewlin coordinating the write ups and working with Lou and Nola on the creation of PDFs and promotion. The grade 6/7 class is painting the trail head marker rocks. We will encourage people to become GaLTT members so that they can receive the walk PDFs via email and will begin a social media membership campaign after Christmas. All members will be eligible to win the new Nancy Turner book entitled 'Luschiim's Plants'.
- The grade 6/7 class is keen to help with **trail building** or maintenance in the area of the school and Rob mentioned the possibility of involving them in the creation of the potential trail from the end of Lockinvar and future trails in the new parkland. Please keep them in mind, Trails committee and let Lou know when we can get them involved.

The Intergenerational Land Based Learning for Reconciliation committee is having a fundraising campaign for the **Healing Canoe project** happening at the school. For the first time in memory, a Coast Salish carver is creating a canoe and the school kids are involved in the ceremonies around its creation and are learning about indigenous culture and teachings. This is a significant event for reconciliation on Gabriola and our committee feels it is an opportunity for GaLTT to show that it is serious about working with indigenous people.

- This committee look forward to a brainstorm session with the conservation committee in the new year to identify key **conservation** messages for public education programming. An outcome of this will be the development of a strategic plan for the community engagement committee.
- The move to change our **Facebook page** is nearing completion. The old GaLTT group page has been renamed Gabriola Nature and anyone can post on it. Paula Brent is monitoring it for now. To encourage people to make the switch to our new page, community Engagement has supplied a book called 'Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest' and a draw will happen soon. As of December 9, 332 people have liked our new page which isn't bad considering it was created just a few months ago.

CONSERVATION

- Link Island Covenant
 - Currently GaLTT only has authority to hold covenants (Section 219) and Statutory Right of Ways (Section 218) of the *Land Title Act* (BC) on Gabriola Island. Rob and Anne have prepared the necessary documentation which is now with lawyer John Manning in Nanaimo, the lawyer NALT usually works with, for submission to the Land Titles Office. We are requesting the geographic area where GaLTT can hold covenants be expanded to include, "Gabriola Island and neighbouring islands". This area is included in our by-laws and our current Strategic Plan refers to GaLTT working in this geographic area.
 - On December 4th, Nola and Anne travelled to Link Island to conduct an assessment of the property, one of our conditions prior to signing the covenant.
 - At the November Board meeting we passed a motion that the covenant needed to be reviewed by a lawyer familiar with conservation covenant co-holding. At the time we assumed that NALT would have the covenant reviewed by a lawyer and this would suffice. They have decided not to have the covenant reviewed by a lawyer as the new covenant is a revision of an existing covenant. We have had the covenant reviewed by a retired lawyer who used to sit on the GaLTT Board and worked on covenants

while on the Board. Helpful comments were made, it is not a legal review, but the Conservation Committee feels this review, while an exception to policy, is sufficient.

- GaLTT also needs to provide the Islands Trust Conservancy with a letter, allowing them to sign an Agreement for Right of Use with the Swift family.
- McRae Interpretive Panels – After review by the Museum, Anne and Nola have completed the text for the entrance interpretive signs and Jemma Green (ITC) has completed text for the moss meadow sign. It is now up to the Museum to work with Nola (under an on-going design contract with the Museum) to complete the design and fabrication of the signs. Timing is partially dependent upon the completion of a survey of the property (being done by the Museum) and a potential Trail Licence, between GaLTT and an adjacent landholder, as this will impact the map that will ideally be on the signs.
- Revisions to the GaLTT conservation policies (Policy 9, etc.) are ready for approval.
- Current potential covenant project - We are actively looking for someone who can provide a high-level ecological assessment of the property. Once this is done, we will approach another land trust about becoming a potential co-covenant holder on the property.
- Review of S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve Management Plan. On November 26th we received the SXNR Management Plan from ITC for final review and approval. Rob, Nola and Anne have reviewed the plan and suggest it is ready for approval with some very minor changes. The plan is strong and includes more ecological data than the original plan, is more inclusive of Indigenous rights, and the approach to managing human use is reasonable.
- Gabriola Green Burial Exploratory Committee – This committee was asked by Sustainable Gabriola to look into the possibility of a Green Burial Site for Gabriola. Such sites now exist on Denman and Salt Spring islands. The committee has started looking for potential land and depending on the size of property, GaLTT could have a role to play. Anne met with co-chair Mary Holdgrafer on November 24th for an initial discussion. Areas of potential collaboration include trail building, memorial benches, potential conservation covenant and ecological restoration. It all depends on what property is found suitable for a Green Burial Site.
- Conservation education/engagement – The Conservation Strategy states that we need to educate/engage a broad base of Gabriolans about the need for conservation on Gabriola. This also ties into the Fundraising Strategy being developed. In January, members of the Conservation Committee, Community Engagement Committee, Invasive Species Committee and the Communications Committee plan to meet and start discussions
- On November 13th, Rob and Anne visited a property holder on North Road near the Village to discuss a potential conservation covenant. After touring the property, we all agreed that Nature Stewards is the best approach for now.

FUNDRAISING

- Committee participated in the wider board discussion of how and when to appeal to our members, volunteers, and donors for more support.
- Pat worked with Frank to assess possible investment opportunities for our Acquisition Fund.

GILSS - no report this month.

INVASIVES SPECIES

- **BC Parks:** Multiple emails with BC Parks staff re restoration at Drumbeg and work at Twin Beaches
- **Drumbeg -- Invasive Plant Removal/Restoration Work under PEF grant**
 - We have now achieved all outcomes in PEF grant application but would like to augment the signage (current signage identifies restoration but has no details). Waiting for go-ahead from BC Parks

- We received permission to use some of remaining funds to chip (if possible) the cut broom still piled in the forest but must haul chips away. Tentatively planning Jan 16th.
- **Twin Beaches/Gabriola Sands – Boundary issue**
Have been trying to get boundary markers for approx. 2 years because volunteers are unclear re boundary between park and neighbouring property. After touring Erica McLaren through the section of Twin Beaches where Daphne removal has been ongoing she reported that she raised the issue at a planning meeting.
- **RDN—Follow-up on Queequeg Park**
Email, signed by Rob, sent to Yann Gagnon, Manager, Park Services
 - confirmed GaLTT’s willingness to partner with RDN to remediate an area of roughly 442 square metres that had been heavily infested with Daphne
 - asked for confirmation that GaLTT to recommend species to plant and RDN to source and provide 200 native plants
 - Requested that work be completed by mid-February. Objective is to prevent Daphne and other invasives from colonizing bare soil left after Daphne removal and to plant while winter rains ensure reasonable success.
 - Invasive Species Committee meeting at the park on December 14th to complete an assessment and then submit a proposed plant list for RDN approval
- **Research Plots**
Assessed native/invasive species’ growth over 10 months since Daphne removal, and fixed plot posts/ropes. Summary of preliminary results recorded and shared with BC Parks. Research plots will be maintained and monitored for one more year.
- **Work Parties**
Twin Beaches, Daphne and ivy removal went back over previously cut sections to maximize long-term success
- **Disposal of Invasive Plants – Spring community pick-up and drop off**
No further info yet for 2022. Several ideas are being discussed.
- **Native Plant Depot- joint project with Community Engagement**
Discussed at committee meeting how to engage more contractors, house-builders etc. for plant salvage

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership numbers:

● COUNTS	●
● 1S	● 55
● 5S	● 50
● 1F	● 63
● 5F	● 82
● LIFETIME	● 6
● Monthly AFT	● 17
● Monthly Canada Helps	● 20
● Monthly CCCU direct	● 1
● Subtotal	● 294
● Expired	● 14
● Current total	● 280

NATURE STEWARDS

- Outreach team members have been working their way through the “wait list” of folks wanting site visits.

- Almost 20 properties now signed to habitat conservation pledges totaling over 30 acres of habitat conserved. If we were to maintain this pace, we would be on track for over 1,000 acres in habitat conservation pledges in five years.
- Upcoming actions: January grant applications to RDN Watershed Fund and others; streamlining of potential Nature Steward landholders that could do online self-assessments before we do site visits; setting habitat connectivity priorities; ITC-GaLTT large landholder mailout will go out in early January; program publicity and promotion.

SHARE THE TRAILS – no report this month

TRAILS & BOARDWALKS

Work parties:

- Installed another Jamie Doig bench in the 707 near Post #50
- Installed an additional 16ft of boardwalk on the Peterson-McDonald connector. Water was pooling at the end of the boardwalk at the Peterson

Trail Trimming:

- Some light trimming has been done on several trails around the island

Fallen Trees:

- 2 trees cleared in Robinson Woods and repaired a damaged boardwalk
- A tree cleared on the trail to shore access #100 near Drumbeg Park

TREASURER

Budget 2022

The draft budget for 2022 was circulated last month and is still being finalized. It will be presented to the January meeting for adoption. If you have any additions to the material, you have submitted previously please contact me.

Operations for November

The financial statements for the month of November are attachments to this email. The month was quite routine financially, with no particularly large or unusual transactions. We have an excess of receipts over disbursements for the 11 months to date amounting to \$ 8,300.

9) **Next meeting Tuesday, January 11, 2022.** Location to be decided.

10) **Meeting was adjourned by Brockley at 7:08pm**

Minutes recorded by Sarah Kopjar