

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Annual General Meeting: Saturday, March 4, 2023 Held at the Gabriola Golf Course

Participating: 39 GaLTT members were present. This constitutes a quorum.

- 1) **Brockley called the meeting to order at 2pm.** Welcome on this rainy afternoon. This is our first in-person AGM since 2020. Let's begin by reminding ourselves that this place we call Gabriola is the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and that Indigenous Peoples have had a deep physical and spiritual connection with the island and its surrounding waters since time immemorial.

We recognize that the colonial legalities associated with exclusive land ownership and with colonial ways of formally protecting ecosystems potentially infringe on the relationships of Indigenous Peoples with the land, especially with their cultural practices and traditional uses.

As a land trust, we must use this knowledge to guide our actions if true reconciliation is to occur.

GaLTT has taken important first steps toward building the foundation of a meaningful relationship with our Snuneymuxw neighbours based on our shared love and respect of the natural world that surrounds us.

However, we know we have much to learn and trust to earn.

- 2) **AGENDA:** This year's AGM agenda has a slightly different format from previous years. We are meeting in the afternoon. The Committee activity reports have been shared widely throughout the year and a summary already sent in the annual newsletter. The business portion of the meeting will consist of the President's Report, Financial Report, Special Resolutions to be voted on and Elections of new Board members. Following that there will be a presentation on vegetation restoration work in Drumbeg and some social time with food provided.

MOTION: Proposed by Dyan Dunsmuir-Farley, seconded by Frank Shoemaker, to accept the agenda as circulated. CARRIED.

- 3) **MINUTES:** The Minutes from the 2022 AGM were in a link included in the announcement of the AGM emailed to all GaLTT members.

MOTION: Proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by Rose Alderson, to accept the minutes as circulated. CARRIED.

4) **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

- Link Island was owned by Swift family since 1963. It was gifted to the ITC in 2022 and has 5 sensitive ecosystems: Mature Forest, Wetland, Cliff habitat, Woodland and Herbaceous. In total Link Island is 21.5 hectares and has 3.3 km of shoreline. GaLTT is now a co-covenant holder, along with NALT, of this special conservation area. It will not be open to the public above the hightide line, it has sensitive eco-systems and is home to several endangered species.
- Nature Stewards Program was launched in 2021 to encourage private landholders to informally protect their own land. To date approximately 75 property owners are participating. We have 11 team members who meet the owners and assess the properties. Ken Gurr is the program coordinator; this is a part-time paid position.
- Snuneymuxw First Nation. 3 board members met with Chief & Council in November. This is the first step in relationship-building. A Snuneymuxw liaison will be assigned to assist GaLTT with future communication.
- RDN Funding Agreement is new, given in recognition of GaLTT's many contributions particularly maintaining trails in RDN Parks. It is not tied to a particular project but GaLTT does submit a report of work done. \$5000 was received in 2022/23 and we hope for increased funding in the future.
- Other grants and contracts for work done by GaLTT volunteers for the RDN, ITC and BC Parks totalled \$11,600 in 2022.

- Nanaimo Foundation. The GaLTT Board of Directors decide to invest \$40,000 of the money in our care in a Fossil Fuel Free Balanced Fund through the Nanaimo Foundation. This was chosen because the money can be accessed quickly if the need arises.
- Advocacy is an important piece of GaLTT's work behind the scenes. This year GaLTT helped write comments on the IT draft Policy Statement review on behalf of 13 Gulf Island Land Trusts. Shared concerns to the RDN regarding the 707 Fuel Management Plan. Is encouraging the RDN to build a promised trail from Cox CP to Burnside which then allows access through to the Village and is working with the Gabriola Natural Burial Society on a land acquisition proposal.
- Membership/Donations for 2022 were \$48,000 in total. Ranging from \$25 to \$10,000. This includes \$6,000 from Doug Harrison's art sale. We have replenished the land acquisition fund, now \$93,000. GaLTT is encouraging monthly donors.
- Communications Committee has done a lot of work to keep members more informed. The new website launched January 2022. There is a news blog, events calendar, and resources Enhanced email and social media presence is happening because we hired Paula Brent to help.
- Volunteers are the heart of GaLTT and many hours are donated.
Directors + Committee chairs = 4725 hours
Committee members + other volunteers = 1600 hours
~ 6325 volunteer hours in total contributed by ~ 155 individual volunteers
- The GaLTT Board is undertaking an organisational review in order to keep our work relevant. This involved:
Review/update purpose and mission
Ponder capacity and capability issues
Are staff/contractors needed to fill key roles?
Conversations with other land trusts
The special resolutions we ask to be voted on today are a result of these discussions.
- Rob Brockley shared some last words for his term as president. GaLTT is an unusual Land Trust in that it maintains and builds trails too. It was his goal to increase the conservation component of GaLTT and his President's Report shows he has been successful. Thank you, Rob.

5) FINANCIAL REPORT: Frank Shoemaker reported 2022 – a very busy financial year.

Revenue increased by 18,700 57%

Disbursements increased by 17,700 78%

Excess of receipts over disbursements increased by 1,000 10%

Full financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 were circulated to the membership.

Highlights from the Financial Statements: see Appendix A

6) SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS: Documents explaining the Special Resolution to amend Constitution and Bylaws were in a link provided in the announcement of the AGM emailed to all GaLTT member. *See Appendix B.*

MOTION: Proposed by Hugh Skinner, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach to accept the changes as described in the Special Resolutions.

- Brockley explained the reasons behind the proposed changes and some questions were asked.

CARRIED.

7) VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: People Who Make a Difference

The Trails Committee wishes to recognize

- Don Machell
- Peter Danenhowe

The Invasive Species Committee wishes to recognize

- Rose Alderson
- Darci Swinton

The Community Engagement Committee wishes to recognize

- Leanne Hewlin

8) BOARD ELECTIONS: Jenni Gehlbach ran the elections and noted that two current board members are stepping down from the board at this meeting. GaLTT's by-laws allow there to be between 5 and 15 board members. Gehlbach presented the 2023 slate of Board candidates and called three times for nominations from the floor. Candidates for 2023:

- Current Directors continuing for one more year of their term (3):
Anne Landry
Barry Moerkerken
Frank Shoemaker
- Current Directors standing for re-election to a 2-year term (6):
Rob Brockley
Rebecca Furnell
Nola Johnston
Sarah Kopjar
Hugh Skinner
Tom Wojcik
- New Nominations for a 2-year term (2)
Brad Nixon
Alison Thomas

ELECTION: There being no further nominations from the floor, and no objections from the floor to the slate presented, the 11 directors and candidates listed were unanimously acclaimed as GaLTT's Board Directors until the next AGM.

9) RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS: Thank you for your service.

Jenni Gehlbach
Lars Hulstein

Both Jenni and Lars will continue working on GaLTT committees. Jenni was awarded an Honorary Life membership for 14 years of dedicated work as a director on the GaLTT Board.

10) Meeting was adjourned by Brockley at 3:37pm

Minutes recorded by Sarah Kopjar

APPENDIX A

2022 – a very busy financial year!

■ Revenue increased by	18,700	57%
■ Disbursements increased by	17,700	78%
■ Excess of receipts over disbursements increased by	1,000	10%

Receipts and Disbursements

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Receipts	Memberships and donations	31,749	
	Special projects	14,658	
	Map/market sales	5,033	
	Investment income	-128	
TOTAL:			51,312
Disbursements	Nature Stewards	12,432	
	Trail maintenance	7,938	
	Community Engagement	7,332	
	Invasives Control	2,979	
	Communications	1,487	
	Workshops	600	
	Operations	7,400	
	TOTAL:		40,168
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements			11,144

APPENDIX A

Fund Balances – at December 31, 2022

	LAND ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT	STEWARDSHIP	OPERATIONS	STREAM KEEPERS	TOTAL
Balance at beginning of year	58,570	4,733	15,953	69,281	220	148,757
Allocations from Operations	20,000		5,000	(25,000)		–
Donations	15,421	1,000			120	16,541
Disbursements	(949)					(949)
Operations				11,144		11,144
TOTAL	93,042	5,733	20,953	55,425	340	175,493

Financial Position 2022

Funds with Coastal Community Credit union	127,230
Receivables, prepaids and inventory	17,804
Investment with Nanaimo Community Foundation	39,024
TOTAL ASSETS	184,058

Current Liabilities	8,565
Fund Balances – Net Assets	175,493
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	184,058

APPENDIX A

2023 Budget Forecast

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual
Receipts	61,000	51,321
Disbursements	61,750	40,236
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over Disbursements	(750)	11,144

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

RESOLUTION – Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

WHEREAS the Bylaws of Gabriola Land and Trails Trust specify that a Special Resolution requires the approval of not less than 75% of the votes cast by the members of the Society entitled to vote at the meeting; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust has considered the wording of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Society and recommends amendments to the wording of the Constitution and Bylaws; and,

WHEREAS the Board requires ratification of this proposal through a special resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows.

CONSTITUTION

1. Section 2 of the Constitution be amended to read:

“2. The purpose of the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust is to protect and restore natural ecosystems on Gabriola and nearby islands, to help provide trail access and other opportunities for people to explore and connect with the natural environment, and to encourage responsible land and water stewardship practices.”

BYLAWS

1. The Bylaws be amended to remove all references to gender specific language and replace with gender neutral language.

2. PART 2.2.(3) of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“(3) Honorary Members: These members include those persons who have rendered extraordinary service to the Society, and who have been offered honorary membership by the Board and who have accepted such offer.”

3. PART 2.8 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“8. A member who has failed to pay their current annual membership fee or any other subscription or debt due and owing by them to the society is not in good standing and loses the rights and privileges of being a member in good standing after one month.”

4. PART 4.11 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“11. Honorary Members may vote at General Meetings of the Society.”

APPENDIX B

5. PART 6.1 of the Bylaws be deleted.
6. PART 6.3(2) of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“(2) The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and any other person appointed/elected an officer shall be the Officers of the society.”
7. PART 7.2 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“2. Decisions made by a meeting of the Directors will be decided by a majority of votes (50% plus one) of those directors present except for decisions regarding land acquisition, conservation covenant, or financial contribution to government or other organization for land acquisition, which will require approval by not less than 75% of all directors.”
8. PART 7.5(1) of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“(1) The directors may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees. A committee shall be composed of at least one director (or designated board liaison), with staff and other non-elected members as needed.”
9. PART 7.6 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“6. A committee shall elect a chair of its meetings; but if no chair is elected, or if at a meeting the chair is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the people present who are members of the committee shall choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting.”
10. PART 7.9 of the Bylaws be deleted.
11. PART 7.10(1) of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“(1) Decisions made by a meeting of the directors and or a committee will be decided by a majority of votes (50% plus one) of those present except for decisions regarding land acquisition, conservation covenant, or financial contribution to government or other organization for land acquisition, which will require approval by not less than 75% of all directors.”
12. PART 8.8 of the Bylaws be deleted.
13. PART 9.2 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“2. Without restricting the power given in paragraph 9.1, the Board of Directors and the membership will bear in mind that Society land under use in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Constitution or under lease or land use contracts, should not be sold; and that, in general, Society land with significant conservation value will not be sold, except under extraordinary circumstances and conditions.”
14. PART 12.1 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“1. A notice may be given to a member, either personally, by mail to their registered address, or by email.”
15. PART 13.3 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

APPENDIX B

“3. To achieve its purpose the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust will:

- a. Conserve natural ecosystems through land acquisition and conservation covenants by working with governments, private landholders and community groups.
- b. Engage with private landholders to encourage voluntary retention and restoration of native habitat.
- c. Restore native ecosystems by removing, limiting and preventing the establishment of invasive plant species and replacing with native vegetation.
- d. Collaborate with landholders and government agencies to plan, develop, maintain, conserve, and promote a sustainable network of public 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.
- e. Collaborate with landholders and government agencies to improve public access to the shoreline and public trails for people with mobility challenges.
- f. Provide and promote activities, educational opportunities and resources for landholders and the public to appreciate and learn about the natural world.
- g. Encourage and advocate for responsible land and water stewardship practices.
- h. Establish positive, proactive relationships with governments (federal, provincial, local, and First Nations), other conservancies and local organizations.
- i. Provide volunteer opportunities for members to be actively involved in achieving the purposes of the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust.
- j. Promote such charitable activities or endeavors, including the acquisition, management and disposal of land and interests in land, as may, in the opinion of the Gabriola Land and Trail Trust board of directors, appear to contribute to the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust’s general purposes and which, to the best extent possible, represents the variety of naturally occurring habitat on Gabriola and nearby islands.
- k. Raise money, acquire funds and other assistance necessary from a variety of sources aligned with the Society’s values to own, acquire and take by purchase, donations, devise or otherwise, land or personal property and expend, sell, exchange, mortgage, lease, let, improve or develop same for the purposes of the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust.
- l. Undertake everything necessary to promote and attain Gabriola Land and Trail Trust’s purposes and periodically re-assess these purposes and any strategic plans that are aligned with them.