

Abbotsford Community Garden Society

Report for the Annual General Meeting April 2020

Welcome to our first ever digital AGM.

As well as this report, we have three items to vote on:

- Acceptance of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (document attached)
- Treasurer's Report (document attached)
- Election of the ACG Society's Board of Directors for the term from April 2020 to March 2021.

You will receive a separate email so that you can vote on these three items digitally. Voting is one vote per plot number. Voting will remain open until midnight Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Updates and Changes at the Garden

Goatkeeping

Given the malicious attack on the goats at the beginning of October 2019 when the fence by Angus Campbell Road was cut during the night and the goats were found loose in the street, the board passed a motion that *"There will be no goats at the garden during the 2020 season. We will take the year off from keeping goats, after which ACG will re-evaluate if we will have goats in the future."* All members who signed up for in-kind hours with the goat team have been reassigned to weed wacking/plot trimming team.

Small Plots In-Kind Hours

The board passed a motion that *"The in-kind hours required for small plots (10'x10' and raised beds) be reduced from 6 per plot to 3 per plot."*

Community Vegetable Team

There is now only one team to manage the piece of land that was previously used for potatoes and winter squash. The space has been reduced and, after a digital membership vote, nine new plots were created to be rented to individual gardeners. The Community Vegetable Team will decide on rotation of crops and choice of vegetables to grow, bearing in mind how to provide the maximum benefit for all members.

Nomination of Board Member Candidates

In February we emailed members to ask for nominations to the Board of Directors. This was a timely decision since it turned out that we are unable to have a public AGM. Once the slate of board members is approved by digital vote, roles on the board will be decided by the board.

Garden Business Procedures

Garden business is conducted by email. If the board does not receive a written report or request, we have no paper trail to work from. You can reach the board at administrator@abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com.

COVID-19 Outbreak

As of March 25, 2020, we have permission to continue to garden our plots. However, gardeners are required to follow strict safety guidelines. These have been emailed to all members, published on the garden website, and posted in the greenhouse. www.abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com.

The board has made and will continue to make adjustments to how we operate for the duration of COVID-19, complying with all federal, provincial and local government measures. Examples are this digital AGM, cancellation of new member registration, changes in how in-kind hours will be managed, and suspension of work bees until it is safe to hold them again. More information about in-kind hours will be sent to members soon.

Reminders

- Lock the greenhouse and the gate if you are the last one to leave. Check the greenhouse before you lock it to be sure no one is still inside. If you are leaving the garden and only one other person is left there, please check with them to see if they would like the gate locked
- Do not take from other plots
- Report any vagrants or pilferers by email. Take a photo if you can, but do not put yourself at risk. administrator@abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com.
- No dogs are permitted in the garden, except for licensed service dogs. Support dogs are not permitted without showing written permission from the ACG board.
- Use the compost bunker for plant material only.
- Plot owners are responsible for removal and disposal of all unwanted gardening material and lumber. No materials are to be disposed of in the common areas or adjacent to the community garden.
- A number of fences are in bad repair and some are dangerous, putting neighbouring gardeners and the lawn team at risk. Please check your fence and repair it as needed.
- Be sure to park in the parking lot. No vehicles are allowed past the compost bunker (except to drop off heavier objects, and then only as long as it takes to unload the vehicle).

Final Thoughts

This might be a good time to review the agreement you signed when you rented your plot.

<https://abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Abbotsford-Community-Garden-Agreement-2020.pdf>

As well, it would be good to read the Supplement Guide. https://abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2020-Abbotsford_Community_Garden_Agreement_Supplement_Guide.pdf

Here is a recap of the COVID-19 Measures for our community garden:

<https://abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com/covid-19-measures/>

Please remember that board members are volunteers. They give many extra hours and much energy to keeping our community garden running smoothly. Be considerate, respectful and kind to them.

Criticizers and complainers create more problems, not solutions. Let's commit to being supportive in every way possible.