



### **Abbotsford Community Garden Annual General Meeting Meeting conducted on Zoom April 10, 2021 10:00 a.m.**

1. Welcome and introduction of current board members: Jane Pritchard called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Jane and Sue Seguire acted as co-hosts. There were 31 participants. 16 members were needed to constitute a quorum. Current members of the board were introduced and the process for the meeting was explained. Jane reminded the members that the most important part of the AGM is to elect the board for the coming year. The agenda was available on a shared screen.
2. Adoption of the agenda: It was moved by Sue Seguire and seconded by Stan Tam that the agenda be adopted as printed. All agreed.
3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2020 AGM, held digitally between April 1-5: It was moved by Sue Seguire and seconded by Stan Tam that the minutes be adopted as printed. All agreed.
4. Treasurer's report: Stan showed the previous year's fiscal statement and the budget for the coming year on the screen. The Community Garden had a surplus of \$1,036 due to the cancellation of some activities because of Covid restrictions and because no compost was purchased in the spring of 2020. A balanced budget was proposed for this year. Stan then took questions.

*A question was raised about the increased budget for equipment and supplies.* Stan said that we may need to purchase more shovels and rakes. Money has also been designated for repairs and maintenance. The squash patch and raised boxes were repaired with used lumber, since the cost of new lumber is exorbitant. Also, money is budgeted in case of unanticipated needs.

Stan reminded gardeners about the process for requesting funds. Groups that need money should email the board for approval. These requests are generally approved. However, the policy is to reimburse expenses, rather than advance funds.

Sue Seguire and Jim Bush moved that the budget be approved as presented. All agreed.

5. Plot rental: Sue Seguire reported that there are 28 new members at the Garden. All have attended the virtual garden orientation, and would get their keys in the afternoon, following the AGM. All the plots are currently rented. There is a



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waiting list. Jane expressed appreciation for the orientation video that was prepared by Shirley and Stan Tam. Its usefulness will be long lasting.

6. Covid 19 Restrictions: These were reviewed by Jane. Jane reminded everyone that the garden is not an outdoor social place. It is for this reason that the sandbox is closed. It was asked if the information regarding Covid 19 restrictions could be posted in the greenhouse. Jane said that a notice would go up.

It was asked who is allowed to work in the garden plot. Due to Covid restrictions, only those who can *currently* be visited are allowed. Follow the Covid rules for your household regarding who comes to the plot.

A question was raised about work bees....noting that they will need to be organized to allow for social distancing. It is best if these are scheduled for non-peak hours, such as early in the morning. Stan noted that we are looking for a lead for work bees.

7. Mole and vole trapping: This is ongoing. The trapped moles and voles are being placed on the concrete blocks that surround the compost in order to attract raptors. It is hoped that in time the raptors will begin to stay and do their own vole and mole catching.
8. Water and hoses: Jane was unsure of when the city will turn on the water. Currently, there is water in the greenhouse which can be accessed for watering seedlings in the garden. It was noted that the hose at the front of the greenhouse is more challenging to turn off.
9. Zero Waste Compost: Stan announced that the compost will be delivered on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We alternate this with mushroom compost which arrives in the fall. A question was raised about the choice of Zero Waste Compost. Gardeners do not have to use either of these soil additives. Jane understands that there needs to be a balance between what is added to the garden soil. Geoff Hughes-Games reminded gardeners that the topsoil that is presently at the site is for city use only.
10. Use of compost pile: Only garden waste is to be deposited in the compost pile. No lumber, plastic or waste from home may be added to the pile. The city kindly looks after this compost. We want to cooperate with them.
11. Use of greenhouse: We currently have access to one room for starting seedlings. To prevent the introduction of pests and disease, only be sterile soil



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should be used. If gardeners wish to use soil from their garden, it should be heat treated first.

### 12. Plot maintenance tips: Jim Bush discussed items which new gardeners may not know and which more experienced gardeners may forget.

- We need to remember that the Community Garden is organic, which means that some restrictions apply. There is to be no use of treated wood.
- Fence heights are to be a maximum of 42 inches measured from the walkway outside the plot.
- Structures within plots should not exceed 6 feet (72 inches). Please remember that plants should not grow beyond the height of the structure. Sunflowers and corn can fall into this category. The concern is that tall plants in one plot may shade a neighbour's garden.
- Weeds! If a gardener is planning to be away for an extended time, then either the board should be notified or a neighbour may be asked to look after watering and weeding during a gardener's absence.
- It is forbidden to plant invasive species as well as marijuana, tobacco, mint, sun chokes and horse radish. A complete list may be found in the guidelines.

A question was raised about the allowable height for a trellis in the raised boxes. The height should reach no more than 6 feet measured from the ground on which the box sits.

Gardeners were reminded to fasten fencing on the inside of the plot so that weed eaters won't get caught.

### 13. Grass cutting: Geoff Hughes-Games reminded gardeners that the rental area is within the plot boundaries. Beyond the boundary is common area. No gravel, stone or wood chips should be placed beyond the fence. If wire or fencing protrudes into the pathway, others could be injured as they pass. If squash or beans grow beyond the fence they may be cut or broken off. Unruly plants can have their stems redirected towards the garden. If tools have been removed from the greenhouse, they should be cleaned and put away when done for the day. Personal items should be left within the plot area.

### 14. Harvesting from common areas: Summer squash should only be harvested once. Take only what is needed for a meal for your household. With over 100 gardeners, it is important to leave some for everyone. Winter squash is



harvested only in the late fall. Again, only harvest what will feed your household for a meal.

### 15. Miscellany:

- Remember that in-kind hours are mandatory. A gardener with a 10 x 20 plot gives 6 in-kind hours per gardening year. A 10 x 10 plot or a raised box requires 3 in-kind hours.
- To help prevent stealing from the gardens, everyone is asked to lock the gate to the garden when they are the last person out. During the day, the city is in and out of the site. However, city people do lock when they leave. If there are no vehicles in the lot, please lock the gates. If someone sees that only one gardener remains, it is courteous to let them know that they will be alone in the garden. Ask if they wish to be locked inside. Also....be sure to check that no one is in the greenhouse before locking it.
- What do we do if we have questions? Write [administrator@abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com](mailto:administrator@abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com) .
- Corrugated roofing material was left outside a new gardener's plot. Geoff agreed to look at it when the gardener picked up her key.
- Leads still sought for: Herbs, Winter Squash, Equipment and Hoses, Grounds Maintenance, Flower Beds

16. Remembering Ian Moore: Ian Moore was one of the original members at the Abbotsford Community Garden. His contributions were vast and varied. Many gardeners have deep appreciation for and fond memories of Ian. Sadly, we lost him in 2020. To recognize Ian a bench in his name will be placed near the goat pen (which he helped to build) near the back hill. If enough is donated by members, then a tree will be planted near the bench. Those wishing to donate may do so by e transfer to: [administrator@abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com](mailto:administrator@abbotsfordcommunitygarden.com). Please use Moore as the password and put "For Ian" in the subject line.

### 17. Election of the Board for 2021:

Jane asked Tracey Hueppelsheuser to look after the vote for the new board. The term for board members is one year. Therefore, board members resign. Those



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who are willing may stand for re-election. (Questions were raised about this....Geoff found the relevant material under Part 4...Directors... in the Certified Copy of the Bylaws and posted it on the chat.) Teresa Thiessen and Judy Chalifoux were unable to continue on the board. Volunteers to serve on the board were sought. New board members are welcome to simply come to the meetings to get a sense of the work and various responsibilities. When they feel comfortable, they are welcome to take on a position.

Volunteers to serve on the board were: Charline Johnsen, plot 144, Tanya Campbell, plot #29 and Marcor Perry, plot #97.

Former members who let their names stand were: Jane Pritchard, Stan Tam, Shirley Tam, Sue Seguire, Lois Mackenzie, Jim Bush, Tim Penner and Kate Jordan.

Tracy Hueppelsheuser..... moved that the volunteers and former members who let their names stand form the slate for the new board.

Lois Mackenzie seconded this.

All voted in favour.

The Abbotsford Community Garden now has an 11 member board, which is the maximum size.

18. Adjournment: At 11:29 a.m. Tania Campbell moved and Jim Bush seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favour.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Jordan, recording secretary