



Abbotsford Community Garden Annual Meeting

Meeting conducted on Zoom

April 9, 2022: 10:00 a.m.

1. In attendance: Board members Jane Pritchard, Shirley Tam, Stan Tam, Sue Seguire, Tim Penner, Mark Perry, Lois MacKenzie, Kate Jordan and 49 members of the Abbotsford Community Garden.
2. The meeting is opened: Jane opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed all who were present, and introduced the members of the Board. She encouraged all in attendance to consider letting their names stand for the Board.
3. Review and approval of agenda: It was moved by Shirley Tam and seconded by Lois MacKenzie that the agenda be approved with power to add. The motion was approved.
4. Review and approval of the minutes from the AGM held April 10, 2021: There were no additions or corrections noted. Tim Penner moved and Lois MacKenzie seconded adoption of the minutes. The motion was approved.
5. Treasurer's report: Stan Tam presented the 2022 budget. Last year, due to increased costs, especially of compost, our budget was \$153.00 more than our income. For 2022, Stan has used last year's budget as a template. What our extra expenses will be, due to the flooding, is unknown. We do know that the lawn mowers and string mowers all need to be replaced. Fortunately, there is a healthy contingency fund to cover these costs. It is not anticipated that gardener's fees will rise. Other costs will include rental of a place to store our equipment and a port a potty, whose cost will be shared with ag in the classroom. We are grateful that Ian Moore's memorial bench, purchased with donations from garden members, seems to have survived, and is only in need of some TLC.

Given the anticipated high costs ahead of us, Mark Raymond moved that the budget be approved, amended to include expenditures of up to \$2,500 for new equipment. Costs greater than \$2,500 require a meeting with membership for approval to spend more. This was seconded by Paul Duchaine. After discussion, the motion was approved.



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6. Flood damage and access to the garden: Jane gave this report. First, there is no contamination to the garden soil. However, the city has condemned the greenhouse due to the high fungal count. The water rose to a level of 5 feet within the greenhouse and garden site. The greenhouse itself, which has not been adequately cared for since the city purchased it, is in rough shape. It is expected that the greenhouse will be taken down. Gardeners will probably NEVER be allowed to re-enter the greenhouse. A hazmat team will remove, sanitize the items in storage and return to us our possessions. What the city has planned for the concrete pad on which the greenhouse rests is unknown.
7. Update from the City of Abbotsford: Jane reported on her meeting with the city planners. The planners talked about removing the community garden. We worked hard to demonstrate our value to the city, (including the preparation of a document that showed 15 benefits provided by the community garden to the city). Geoff was also present at the meeting with city planners. He used the time as a teaching opportunity. After this meeting, the city developed a plan to give us (AGC) access to the clean-up site.

Linda Scott and Beverly Barnbrook from plot #102 moved and seconded that we accept the agreement from the City, entitled Temporary Right to Enter and Clean-up with Monday, April 11, as the start-up date. All agreed.

8. Plan moving forward: The need to bring in our own equipment until the hazmat team has completed its clean-up of items stored in the greenhouse was discussed. Work bees will need to be organized, with people prepared to lead them. Hard-toed or steel-toed boots/shoes must be worn, as well as eye protection and leather or other cut-proof gloves. Long sleeved shirts and long pants must be worn. Gardeners should only lift what they can *comfortably* move. If members wish to invite help from people who are not members of the ACG, then those members must take personal liability for those volunteers.

Debris must all be cleared except for the greenhouse, the area around the barn and behind the greenhouse. Jane asked whether there is significant opposition to having the work begin immediately. There was none. Members were asked to put their names into the chat if they will work as supervisors or team leads. Some offered themselves as leads....many offered to help as they are able. The list may be found on page 3. It is expected that when the work is complete, a second contract for use of the community garden space will be provided. The fee to go into the garden and clean is \$10.00 The fee for gardening is unknown.



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Volunteers for Clean-Up at the Abbotsford Community Garden:

Leads: Geoff Hughes-Games for the Easter weekend
Peter and Kathie Vander Helm (no time restrictions given)

Volunteers (worker bees):

Terry Rempel
Mike Demers (plot 75)
Tim Penner
Heather Kelly
Gabriel Popa
John Kim family (plot 108)
Vincent Webb (plot 64)
Lorraine Irvine-Roberts
Teresa Thiessen
Tania Campbell
Lois MacKenzie
Venita Webb
Linda Houweling
Max and Kate Racette

Lisa Lowe
Reza Davoody
Jo Dee Chudyk
Tania Campbell
Paul Duchaine
Pat and Lynn Johnson (plot 88)
Jessie (last name unknown)
Varlene MacLeod (plot 216)
Dionne Legge
Cecil Law
Sandra Vida (plot 107)
Katalin Tako
Annie (last name unknown)

9. Around the garden:

- For this gardening year, there will be no new rentals.
- The city water is running. It may be a while (August or later) before the aquifer water is available. Gardeners are advised to collect rainwater, or be prepared to bring water in pails to their plot.....using the city water.
- **Everyone, please note.....the city is looking very intently at our use of the land.** It is ALR property, whose use is restricted. Some in the city are waiting to pounce and kick us out. The rules that are enforced *come from the city!!!!* Please remember....only park in the parking lot. Only put compostable items into the compost bin.

10. Resignation of the Board and elections: At 10:53 the Board resigned. Geoff Hughes-Games, former president, stepped in to run the election. Members were asked to put their names forward in the chat. It was noted that no one is named to a position. The Board members decide who will take the various positions that are available. All the former Board members, with the exception of Jane Pritchard agreed to continue serving. Jane will continue as city liaison, which is not a Board position. Sharon Read, Paul Duchaine, Jo Dee Chudyk and Cecil Law agreed to serve as well. This brings the total to 11. Geoff called three times for objections



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to the slate of Board members. There being no objections, the following people were named to *the Board for 2022*: Jo Dee Chudyk, Paul Duchaine, Kate Jordan, Cecil Law, Lois Mackenzie, Tim Penner, Mark Perry, Sharon Read, Sue Seguire, Shirley Tam and Stan Tam

11. Adjournment: It was moved at 11:05 by Geoff Hughes-Games and Cecil Law that the meeting adjourn. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Jordan
Recording secretary