

# Fruit Haven Ecovillage

## Community Sovereignty Doctrine

Last revised: May 17, 2019

Passed consensus at community meeting on 17 May 2019, following several months of discussion and revision.

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#### **I. Community Vision**

- a) The community, seeing precedent in many other communities regarding the importance for a single unifying vision voluntarily accepted by all community members, expresses its vision to guide the community, the same vision that was collaboratively written and consented to by all Fruit Haven community members in 2018:

At Fruit Haven, we envision a worldwide network of decentralized, autonomous, fruitarian communities, operating in a sovereign manner, with a comfortable balance between the rights of individuals and the functioning of the community. Growing an abundance of our own fruits and vegetables and eating a raw vegan diet will provide the physical backbone of superior health, while non-violent communication and consensus-based decision making processes will provide the organizational backbone of a resilient and successful community. Through the use of permaculture methods of cultivation, we will help to restore the world's ecosystems to their healthy natural state, while creating an example to guide others. Above all, we celebrate health, wholeness, and connection to nature in a community of conscious fruit-loving individuals.

#### **I. Accepting Members**

- a) When accepting members, the Fruit Haven members with voting power in a community area, with the consultation of the residents and volunteers in that community area, may grant a person membership to the general community of "Fruit Haven." Non-present

community members with voting power may still object within a 2-week period, per the consensus method.

- b) When accepting members, the Fruit Haven members with voting power must follow the “New Member Expectations” list, which was consented to by the Fruit Haven community in 2018.
- c) The Fruit Haven members with voting power in a community area, with the consultation of the residents and volunteers in that community area, may grant residency or regular use privileges to that specific community area.
- d) A community may only grant residency once it has satisfied the conditions described in **Initiation of a Sovereign Community Area**, below.
- e) A community may only grant membership once it has satisfied the conditions described in **Initiation of a Sovereign Community Area**, below.
- f) A person may also be granted residency or regular use privileges to a different community area, but only the community area they are being granted residency/usage to may grant this.

## **II. Banishing Inhabitants**

- a) If the individuals residing in a Fruit Haven community area wish to banish an inhabitant from the community area, either completely or with conditions, they must follow these general guidelines, which are based on past precedent, set by Fruit Haven 1 and Terra Frutis:
  - i. The community must discuss the matter using the consensus method of decision-making.
  - ii. The decision rule must be unanimity minus one among Fruit Haven community members with voting power.
  - iii. The decision, if passed at a meeting, is effective immediately or per the terms of the proposal, but pending review by non-present Fruit Haven community members with voting power.
  - iv. Non-present Fruit Haven community members with voting power (as in, those who do not regularly live in the community area or those who have been absent for some time), while they do certainly have a vote, shall defer to those present as the non-present deem reasonable, as the non-present members are likely not experiencing the listed issues firsthand and so may be more likely to offer undue leniency.

- v. The community must present a written list of grievances/complaints/transgressions with approximate dates.
- vi. Some of the items on the list must have been discussed with the inhabitant in question previously (to satisfy there having been a prior warning). However, an exception to this clause may be made in cases of transgressions considered by the community to be so severe that no prior warning is necessary to banish the individual.
- vii. If an individual is banished from any Fruit Haven community area following these guidelines, and the individual was a community member at the time of banishment, the individual is temporarily stripped from their status as community member for the duration of the banishment, and also loses voting power for that period if they previously had possessed it. If the individual has residency in other Fruit Haven community areas, they may retain that residency if the other community area permits it, but their Fruit Haven community membership is no longer recognized.
- viii. Additional terms may be determined by each community area.

### **III. Sovereignty of Community Areas**

- a) Each community area may have its own set of by-laws
- b) Each community area may accept members to be part of the “Fruit Haven” community.
- c) Each community area may grant residency in that same community area to a resident/member/etc
- d) Each community area cannot grant residency in a different community area to a resident/member/etc
- e) When voting on proposals that affect primarily that community area, only community members with voting power who have been granted residency or regular use rights in that same community area can block the proposal.
- f) Only members who are trained in the Consensus Decision Making method may have general voting power across the community, though specific community areas may waive this training requirement if they so desire and consent, and then community members who have not received the training will be allowed to vote only on things that affect primarily that specific community area.
- g) Volunteers or guests must have permission from a Fruit Haven resident or member to enter the community area of a Fruit Haven where they have not been granted residency
- h) Somebody who is accepted as a Fruit Haven resident or member can access any Fruit Haven community area, unless a restriction has been placed upon them for poor behavior

- i) Fruit Haven trustees have access (not necessarily residency or regular usage rights!) to all FH community areas, unless a restriction has been placed upon them for poor behavior.
- j) Residents, members, trustees, volunteers, etc., must abide by the rules of the FH community area they are in, when accessing in it.

#### **IV. Sovereignty of Properties**

- a) Aside from this document, there shall be no other formal bindings between Fruit Haven-denominated properties.
- b) Any property, should all the owners agree using the consensus method and the unanimity decision rule, may shed the title of “Fruit Haven” and in doing so, effectively leave the Fruit Haven project. They may still participate in interactions and trade between the different properties, so much as the other property owners and/or community groups desire.
- c) Properties denominated “Fruit Haven” and thus considering themselves to be part of the Fruit Haven projects, shall be bound to the terms of this document, as shall be their inhabitants, trustees, community members, residents, volunteers, and all other class of participant, until at which point enforcement of one of the terms may violate the owners’ sovereignty in terms of asking someone present on the property to leave due to legal risk, or having the final say in decisions that significantly effect property value or legal risk.

#### **V. Initiation of a Sovereign Community Area**

- a) Fruit Haven community members shall, for these purposes, be considered the “Seed Community” from which other formally recognized communities shall spring forth.
- b) A community area with no resident members shall fall under the jurisdiction of Fruit Haven community members with regards to granting residency rights, and also in terms of general community decision-making.
- c) Once a community area has at least 1 resident Fruit Haven community member and 2 non-members granted (and utilizing) residency OR 3 residents total including at least one Fruit Haven community member, AND, once the community has a formally ratified set of written by-laws on display in the community area and available in the Fruit Haven web archives, it shall be recognized as a sovereign community area. Only once they have reached this point, may they grant residency or Fruit Haven membership. At this point, FH members shall have no jurisdiction in terms of granting residency to said community

area, and FH members shall rescind jurisdiction over matters specifically relevant to day-to-day life and operations at said community area, to the residents and members residing at said community area.

## **VI. Ratification / Jurisdiction**

This document, if approved by current FH members with voting power, using the consensus method and the unanimity decision rule, will apply to all Fruit Haven properties and their community areas. It will overrule any competing clauses in community area bylaws. Any owners who buy into a Fruit Haven property will also by default agree to this document before buying in.