

Community Sovereignty Doctrine

Last revised: May 25, 2023

To be proposed to owners once a version is written that may pass consensus.

===ARTICLES===

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I. Community Vision

a) Options for community vision:

1. Decide upon a vision to include here, similar to the ones we were recently discussing or the one that was already on this or other documents. **Pros:** Unifying and strong. **Cons:** More difficult to pass consensus with a large group.
2. Do not include a vision here, and each property can put their own vision in their community contract. **Pros:** Easier to pass consensus with a smaller group of people, more sovereignty for each property. **Cons:** Less unifying for Fruit Haven in general.
3. #2 but with a fairly vague and loosely guiding vision in this document, and a more specific vision that can be passed by each Fruit Haven property in their community contract. Example: *Fruit Haven is an ecovillage of like-minded people. Valuing decentralization and sovereignty, we invite each group of Fruit Haven property owners to form their own vision of our shared future.*
4. Balkanization of Fruit Haven / Fruit Haven Civil War. Theoretical “disaster scenario.” Fruit Haven as an entity name is dissolved completely, some owners declare allegiance to Terra Frutis, some owners secede and become Liberty Homesteads or some other community. **Pros:** More sovereignty and decentralization, easier to test consensus. **Cons:** Less unifying for Fruit Haven, and would need to re-do branding and determine budget compatibility and participation which is a lot of administrative work.
5. Ask ChatGPT to write a community vision. I asked ChatGPT to write a vision, first explaining our various core values as listed in the previous visions, and then explaining that 80-85% of members felt very strongly about veganism, and 15-20% no longer agreed with the term “vegan” and saw issues with continuing to declare it specifically/primarily as a vegan community. I asked it to write a two paragraph vision and it gave me four paragraphs, which is a bit long for a vision. I pasted it below with only one modification, which was the one sentence about diet in our community areas which I added myself, replacing an unnecessary/redundant restatement that ChatGPT put. **Pros:** Being part of the Matrix. **Cons:** Being part of the Matrix.

Fruit Haven is a vibrant and inclusive ecovillage committed to fostering a sustainable and harmonious way of life. Rooted in the principles of permaculture and sustainability, we strive to create a nurturing environment where individuals can thrive and connect with nature. Our vision is one of decentralized decision-making, driven by non-violent communication and consensus, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.

At Fruit Haven, we embrace the diversity of dietary choices and respect the individual preferences of our community members. While some hold a deep commitment to veganism, others may have different dietary inclinations. In this spirit of inclusivity, our vision promotes a community that celebrates a wide range of dietary approaches, recognizing the importance of conscious choices and the interconnectedness of health and sustainability. We aim to provide a sanctuary where people can explore and adopt a diet that aligns with their values. In our community centers, only vegan foods are allowed.

Within our community, we prioritize health and well-being, acknowledging the profound impact it has on our lives and the environment. The concept of raw foods is embraced as part of our shared understanding of optimal nutrition and its benefits for vitality and longevity. While we do not exclusively define ourselves as a raw food community, we encourage exploration and education around raw food principles, promoting a holistic approach to wellness for those interested.

In Fruit Haven, we envision a society that exemplifies the ideals of permaculture, sustainability, decentralization, non-violent communication, consensus decision-making, sound money, and alternative living. We strive to create an environment where these values coexist harmoniously, inspiring one another to lead intentional lives while fostering a deeper connection with the natural world. Fruit Haven is a place where each individual is encouraged to contribute their unique gifts and perspectives, cultivating a thriving community that nurtures personal growth, environmental stewardship, and collective well-being.

6. Use ChatGPT's text (modified if we wish) not as a vision, but as a general explanation text on our website. Then, write a much more basic and simple vision, that contains no contentious issues that people within our group of 40+ owners might disagree with.

II. Sovereignty of Community Areas

- a) Each community area may create its own set of general rules for day-to-day living and smooth operations. These rules must be clearly posted to be considered in effect.
- b) Invitees (of whatever status) residing in one community area may visit other community areas for social events and similar purposes, unless specifically prohibited.
- c) Invitees of private lots on any Fruit Haven property may visit any Fruit Haven community area for social events and similar purposes unless specifically prohibited, but the first time they must be accompanied by their sponsor (the landowner who invited them or their agent) for introductory purposes.
- d) Fruit Haven owners have access (not necessarily residency or regular usage rights!) to all Fruit Haven community areas for social events or similar purposes, unless a restriction has been placed upon them by the owners of that community area or its inhabitants following Article II.
- e) All invitees must abide by the posted rules of the Fruit Haven community area they are in, when accessing in it.

III. 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) Should a group of property owners exercise their rights under letter b, owners of other properties or their appointed agents shall negotiate a logical and equitable agreement regarding compensation for road use and other shared infrastructure.
- d) 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 invitees e.g. 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.

IV. Banishing Inhabitants

- a) If the individuals residing in the Fruit Haven community wish to banish an inhabitant from a community area, either completely or with conditions, they must follow these general guidelines, which are based on past precedent that was 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 residents of the community area, or among the owners of that Fruit Haven property; the owners’ decision shall always override the decision of the community area residents.
 - iii. The decision, if passed at a meeting, is effective immediately or per the terms of the proposal, but pending review by owners of that Fruit Haven property, who may support or rescind the decision, but are advised not to rescind in most cases, since non-present owners are likely not experiencing the listed issues firsthand and so may

be more likely to offer undue leniency or be influenced by others who are suggesting leniency at the expense of the quality of life of other inhabitants.

- iv. The community must present a written list of grievances/complaints/transgressions with approximate dates.
- v. 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. One such example is the case of the schizophrenic monk at FH1. Also, previous warning may have been given in other locations by other people (long-running problems spanning multiple communities.)
- vi. Additional terms may be determined by each community area, but may not contradict these terms.

V. Ratification / Jurisdiction

This document, if approved by all current Fruit Haven owners, using the consensus method and the unanimity minus one decision rule and a 15-day no-contact clause barring known and declared objections by acquainted individuals, will apply to all Fruit Haven properties and their community areas. It will overrule any competing clauses in any other documents except for the community contract between owners, which is the ultimate authority granting this document its power. Any owners who buy into a Fruit Haven property must also agree to this document before becoming an owner.

FORMAL COMPLAINT AND MEDIATION PROCESS