


sent on May 14, 2026, 3:05 PM

To	 Person  Person  Person
Cc	 Person
Bcc	 Person
Subject	

Dear Fruit Haven Owners,

We are excited about the future of Fruit Haven and warmly welcome new community members, co-owners, and volunteers who feel inspired to help bring this vision to life through meaningful projects such as road maintenance, food forest development, natural building, and many other improvements that support the growth of our tropical community and make it thrive.

We want to help clarify Fruit Haven's structure and governance so we can reduce future conflicts, move beyond past misunderstandings and tensions, and continue building a healthier culture of regular community meetings and collaborative decision-making.

Another important reason for developing a clearer membership structure is the recent Ecuadorian border-zone land restrictions preventing new foreign ownership since 2025. Existing foreign owners cannot sell to foreigners (only to Ecuadorians). A more functional membership pathway would allow people who are not property owners to still meaningfully participate, contribute, live within the community, and become more involved in Fruit Haven's long-term development and governance.

Over the past six weeks (since March 19, 2026), myself (Boris), Stefan (Ecohubs), Nik, and Rob have been meeting as well as joined by Carl Johan, Nikolaus, Randy, Mike Young, to better understand and clarify Fruit Haven's existing membership structure and governance.

This email is not intended to serve as a discussion thread, as we are trying to avoid long chains of email responses and thread fatigue. If you would like to contribute, share your perspective, or have your voice heard, you are warmly invited to join the discussion during our weekly meetings.

- **Thursdays and Sundays at 12:00pm (Ecuador time)**
- Join: [Public Fruit Haven Telegram Group](#)

Recordings of these meetings are available here: [Youtube meetings playlist](#)

Minutes and summaries can be found here: [Google drive folder](#)

Clarifying What Already Exists (No Changes Intended)

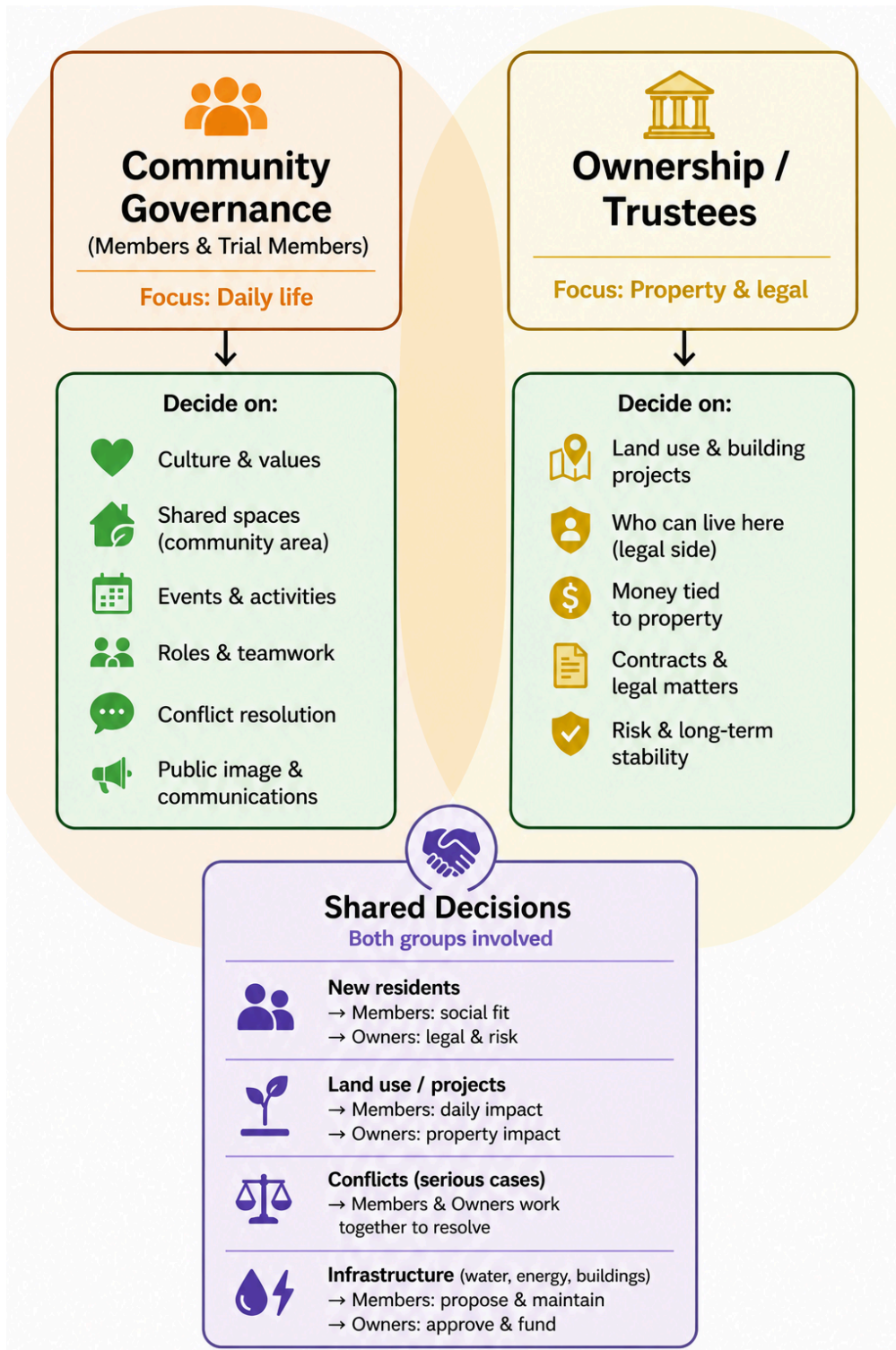
The current bylaws (approved May 17, 2019): [FH1 Community Bylaws.pdf](#)

already define distinct roles: trustee (owner), member, resident, and volunteer, along with a pathway to membership:

- 6 months residency (non-consecutive)
- Completion of Consensus 101 + quiz
- Request at a community meeting
- Approval through consensus

Our goal is simply to **clarify and consistently represent these existing definitions**, which have not always been applied in practice.

Below is a simple graphic illustrating the responsibilities and influence of members and owners. More details: [Miro Board](#)



Current Situation

While this structure exists, few (if any) new members have formally completed this process over the past 7+ years (since the bylaws passed in 2019), despite many

active trustees.

Transitional Membership Proposal (Bridge)

As part of this clarification, we developed a proposal to more clearly separate **ownership from membership**, while providing a fair transition for current owners who would like to remain members.

The proposal would:

- Grant eligible current owners **“Active Member” status upon adoption**
- Provide a **1-year transition period** to meet the proposed membership requirements (see details: [Transitional Membership Proposal](#))
- **Leave all ownership rights and responsibilities unchanged**

This is intended as a **temporary bridge**, not a replacement of the bylaws.

Benefits of Membership

Becoming an active member is also intended to create clearer participation, responsibility, and benefits within the community. Some proposed benefits for active members may include things such as favorable membership rate for rent in community spaces, tools, and greater participation in governance and collaborative projects. These details are still being refined together as part of the ongoing process.

Governance Approach

We are working with a **hybrid approach**:

- Existing consensus process (per bylaws)
- Supported by a minimal sociocracy-style method

Guided by: **“Good enough to try, safe enough to proceed.”**

This is meant to make the current system more usable—not to replace it.

Process & Timeline

This proposal will follow the standard 14-day review period from the date of this email. After 14 days, we will assess consensus in line with the bylaws and current decision-making approach and proceed based on the outcome.

Whether you agree, disagree, or feel like you want to contribute and make your voice heard you are warmly invited to join the discussion in our weekly meetings:

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Supporting documents:

- [Membership States Proposal](#)
- [Transitional Membership Proposal](#)
- [Role Explicitness Proposal](#)
- [Definition of Participation in Community Governance](#)

Any replies to this email will be taken into account in the next meeting.

Warm regards,
Boris
(on behalf of Stefan, Nik, and Rob)

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