

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday Dec. 15th, 2016
Rossland Library 5:00pm MINUTES

Present: Les Carter*, Troy Colautti*, Kim Deane (Chair)*, Larry Doell*, Bart Fyffe, Sarah Golling, Gerry Heacock*, Derrick Horney, Demitri Lesniewicz* , Don Liszt, Bob McQueen, Laura Mackay*, Rob Richardson* & Stewart Spooner* *Director

1) Meeting called on short notice.

Topic#1: commercial activities policy (with urgency associated with one particular operation).

The one particular operation was Kootenaygateway ('KG') advertising 5 scheduled day snowshoe tours in the Rec Site using some shelters/cabins; same as last 5 years and continuing into 2016. KG experience: not all days booked each year, and small numbers of client.

KG has not sought the required permits from RS&T BC.

Commercial permit requirements changed in 2015 when the Rec Site was established.

RS&T BC advice: for commercial permits it will seek direction from FoRRS, its Rec Site partner.

Past few days - many in-depth, thoughtful e-mail messages by board members & interested persons regarding commercial activity in the Rec Site— a range of views expressed.

Clearly, an important issue requiring due deliberation.

In rough terms, the options seem to be:

Option#1: No commercial activity whatsoever; or

Option#2: Strong control on a case-by-case basis pursuant to Policy established by FoRRS.

Les Carter had circulated a draft Policy to explore Option#2 more fully.

2) Regarding the particular KG operation:

Motion by Larry Doell and seconded by Les Carter:

“That FoRRS recommend to RS&T BC that KG be permitted to operate on a test basis for this coming winter only, in a manner consistent with that of the past few years and subject to satisfactory negotiation between FoRRS and KG, based on FoRRS draft Policy; and further, that a FoRRS committee be set up for this negotiation.”

3) Discussion points:

a) Understood this to be a one-time, test case – not precedent setting – and, that all options remain open for consideration including no commercial activity; with the intent to finalize this matter by next February /March;

b) KG has done this for 5 years, or so with no measurable impacts;

c) Season has begun for KG;

d) Orderly transition – good management practice being fair to all;

e) KG likely not the only commercial activity in the Rec Site;

f) Suggested that no commercial activity be permitted by permit – anyone doing so without permission to “take their chances”. Including KG this coming winter.

g) FoRRS should ‘broadcast’ permit requirements (in ‘Etiquette’ notice?).

4) Motion in (3) passed.

5) Committee set: Les Carter, Larry Doell, Sarah Golling & Rob Richardson. (Laura to be advised).

- 6) Topic#2: Meeting approved purchase of accessories for cabins (fire extinguishers, first aid kits, blankets, etc.) as proposed by Rob Richardson.
- 7) Topic#3: Volunteer “ Host” program to serve beginners seeking assistance using the Rec Site. The many benefits to FoRRS and the community were noted – if this can be coordinated somehow. Rob Richardson to develop this on a trial basis.
Meeting suggested that liability aspects be checked thoroughly (Kootenay Mountaineering Club example; and confirming specific examples with RS&T BC).
- 8) Topic#4: Crowding in the cabins during peak times. Discussed - need to emphasize ‘sharing’.
- 9) Topic#5: ‘Etiquette’ notice in Cabins – being developed by Rob Richardson, and can include a ‘sharing’ note. Rob to check notice with RS&T BC.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm

Next Meetings: January 12th, 2017 {Future: February 2nd, 2017 March 2nd, 2017}
Open to all