

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday Jan. 12th, 2017
Rossland Library 5:00pm MINUTES

Present: Bob Bechaud*, Kim Deane (Chair)*, Larry Doell*, Gerry Heacock*, Don Liszt, Laura Mackay*, Rob Richardson*, Sheree Sonfield and Don Vockeroth *Director

- 1) FoRRS policy re: 'Commercial' activity in the Rec Site.
Background: All such activity requires a permit from RS&T BC who have advised they will be guided, regarding the Rossland Range Recreation Area. by FoRRS.
Per motion at last FoRRS meeting, FoRRS has advised Kootenay Gateway (KG) and RS&T BC that FoRRS supports KG continuing past practices, for this current winter only, as:
max. 5 trips, max 8 clients per trip and no special priority in cabins.

Wide range of views among FoRRS Board members – pretty much from no 'Commercial' activity, to FoRRS standing back completely and let enterprises to 'take their chances solely with RS&T BC'. Views to date have been expressed at FoRRS Dec. 15th, 2016 meeting, through recent, extensive e-mail exchanges and during some limited time available at this meeting.

Action:

Agreed that FoRRS has some time available (a few months) to deal with this.

Action: As next step, Kim to coordinate developing a list of all points put forward. Everyone to review and consider if an acceptable policy can be found by FoRRS Board acting alone, or with community consultation; or some other process .

- 2) 'Etiquette' info in cabins: Rob's draft well received –“nice tone”.
Some add-ons suggested regarding candles along lines of“candles are discouraged, but if to be used, then saucer or equivalent required....and take out left-overs”..); and re: garbage : “ leave no trace”.
Rob to finalize using his judgement given this input. Will get laminated signs completed forthwith.
- 3) Parking: Kim submitted a formal application (following Highway's guidance and request) for parking in the Pit. Hopeful, but not yet certain.
Highways to install “Congested Area” signs at Strawberry Pass next summer. Recent e-mail indicated their view that parking is better this winter.
Meeting agreed there has been improvement, but noted that parking is still very high risk on many busy days. Decided that FoRRS needs photo support showing high-risk situations.....send to Kim.
(Note: 6pm news from Vancouver Jan. 14th : item covered major congestion, high-risk parking along highway to Whistler – exactly our situation. So – if a province-wide problem exists, maybe FoRRS should again consider “going to Victoria” – while keeping local officials in the loop).
- 4) Planning for 2017 summer program. The last year of major funding - \$89,000 available for 2017.
Major items, per 2016 experience are likely to be “Trails” & “Thinning” work. Most of the obvious such work was completed last summer. Thus – less clear what to plan for 2017.
Examples suggested at meeting: Trail link from bottom of Lepsoe Basin ski runs to 'Flying Mile' road and pit. And, easy down-skiing route from new Sunspot Cabin.
Winter is the time to develop ideas and explore them.
Important: All urged to give this some thought and provide input to Gerry or Kim.
- 5) New cabins planned for 2017: Booty's and Igloo. FoRRS current priority: follow up with groups involved with these two cabins to confirm plans. Les & Kim

- 6) Finalizing 2016 C150 Project expenditures: still require about \$2,000 of to fully utilize the 50% C150 fixed, 'use it-or-lose-it' grant of \$40,500 during 2016.
 Ideas at meeting: a) grate stair treads for Red Dog, Viewpoint, Lepsoe Basin and Mosquito cabins (as at new Sunspot cabin). From XL Welding, or another supplier Don Liszt can access.
 Kim to contact Les and coordinate with Rob, Don's (Liszt & Vockeroth) and Dave Watson.
 b) Culverts: for several locations identified during 2016 on trail/roads; and possibly for the necessary new road to the proposed pit parking.
 These items (a) and (b) will likely provide sufficient expenditures to max the C150 claim.
- 7) Administration update:
 a) Charitable Status; APPROVED!! Letter received this week.
 Reminder to all: any donators wanting a 'Tax Slip' need names and complete addresses so 'Tax Slip' can be sent to them by FoRRS. Suggest donations must be at least \$20 to qualify.
 b) New Society Act requirements (next two years): Les is tracking this.
 c) GST rebate: FoRRS can claim back ½ of GST paid to CRA during 2016 – about \$2,000.
- 8) ATCO logging in active Rec Site areas (Lepsoe Basin & Elgood Creek), Schedule is important re: new Not-So-Secret cabin build - FoRRS to inquire (Stewart).
 Letter to ATCO was proposed at November meeting due to some disappointment over ATCO's seemingly minimal response to FoRRS concerns re: logging in Elgood Creek (ATCO claiming their plans/flagging are too advanced for major changes).
 Meeting felt a letter could be counter-productive - preferable to have ongoing informal contacts with ATCO staff, coupled with FoRRS identifying and giving ATCO early warnings about potential sensitive areas. Letter abandoned.
- 9) Signs: 20, or so in place and very well received. Some locations to be improved.
 Additional signs available (Don & Laura, Rob & Kim)
 'Branding' report (Gerry & Demitri) - budget \$500. In progress.
 Historic (mostly Cookie's hand-painted) signs throughout the Rec Site – Larry advised plan to replace originals with photos on aluminum plate. Originals to be stored/displayed (some ideas exchanged as to how and where).
 Don L. advised he has a good number of blank aluminum plates.
 Interpretive signs proposed for: Marg's Junction & Cookie Jar cabin site
- 10) Memberships: Sheree advised results after recent campaign via Newsletter:
 Dec, 2015 = 67 Dec, 2016 = 218 Jan 10, 2017 = 229
 The biggest increases in 2016 came from the Winter Carnival event (about 75 members) and the **December 2016** email effort (48 members so far). About 40 members have utilized the pay pal sign up button on the website. Total is less than 1/2 of the people (540) receiving the Newsletter.
- 11) Rossland Winter Carnival: Saturday January 28th sidewalk table/display (say 10 or 11am 'till about 4pm). Sheree proposed sharing (or being a neighbour with) her Rotary table. Don & Laura agreed to coordinate with Sheree seeking help to man the table on the day, and with display materials (Kim advised large map and older photo displays are in hand).
- 10) Colin's proposed 'Arctic' event for early February. Kim to inquire and inform all by e-mail.
 11) Rec Site photo collage (similar to Doell Photo poster of Trail city) discussed.
 12) Idea for "Volunteer Host" program not discussed further during this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Next Meetings - Open to all: February 2nd, 2017 {Future: March 2nd, 2017}