

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday Feb. 2nd, 2017
Rossland Library 5:00pm MINUTES

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

Note: Meeting intended to focus on the 'commercial' issue. However, 'other topics' took more time than anticipated .

- 1) Winter Carnival (Jan. 28th) sidewalk table by Laura & Don. Full-time for the 4 hours, talk with passers-by . Signed 48 new life members . Great effort for FoRRS.
- 2) Website: Sheree adding list of sponsors and supporters. Decided to include contractors that FoRRS has engaged and paid for.
- 3) Trails & Thinning projects for 2017: input sought; Gerry & Kim - not much so far. Important topic, as these are major C150 project expenditures (& 2017 is last C150 year).

Following points at meeting:

- expand 2016 thinned areas in Lespoe Basin & above Mosquito Cabin;
 - so far for trails, only modest excavator work (costly) identified, mainly to complete roadside brushing and add several culverts; remaining ideas are low (no) cost chainsaw clearing;
 - widen Plewman Trail winter route – 'dead & down' work;
 - chainsaw clearing trail suggestions: 'Mid'line Trail' to/from Viewpoint (being used this winter); 'Larry's Link' at base of Lespoe Basin; revive old Chilcotin Trail (Red Dog to White Owl Pass) ;
 - clean up some burn piles with nasty projecting pieces;
 - area between highway and Cutblock Peak (nb; may be affected by proposed ATCO logging);
 - shoulder of Elgood;
 - thinning crew work must be accessible to avoid extreme travel time costs;
 - consider some diverse pocket thinning in addition to one, or two major sites;
- 4) 'Etiquette' posters: have been placed in main cabins. Seeking input. Received one strong view that dog sentence was too strongly against dogs in cabins. General discussion. Larry Doell to try alternative wording in Sunspot Cabin. Also, is there too much 'over-managing' by FoRRS inherent in the poster? All to be reviewed after this winter season.
 - 5) 'Volunteer Host' proposal: Rob & Sheree to put out request in Newsletter to gauge interest. Waiver being explored – both necessity for a waiver & and, if necessary, what wording.
 - 6) Safety blankets: Rob will place these in 5 new cabins. In red bag with Notice as to purpose & guidance where cell-phone access can be obtained.
 - 7) Branding exercise: Demitri showed draft copy. Intended as a guide. In progress.
 - 8) New Cabins during 2017 status:
Booty's (replacing Surprise shelter) – Troy confirmed Hiltec will build during 2017. Meeting planned.
Igloo – Demitri in touch with Pete Golden. Will follow up.
 - 9) 'Commercial Issue'. Limited time due to other business at this meeting.
Board somewhat overwhelmed by lengthy e-mail strings, reports, summaries, etc.
Les has been asked to coordinate, but absent due to 'flu.
Bob spoke – seeking to reduce emotional level – summarized relevant points in all FoRRS base documents (using the term 'business'), highlighted "who are the other stakeholders" & "how to engage the community"?

Sheree suggested defining “commercial” might be helpful going forward.

Laura noted almost all passers-by at the Carnival table favoured “no commercial”.

Stewart: Trail Society users typically also say no. However, other stakeholders that are essential to creation and continuation of the network - of whom users are generally unaware - are aligned with economic benefits.

Q: Isn't the high Rec Site use a sufficient economic benefit?

Ans: The stakeholders referred to, certainly acknowledge this benefit, but also give value to additional economic opportunities.

Stewart: Justin can handle most permit matters, being mindful of FoRRS guidelines, without referring each one to the Board.

Bob: Cited a situation: large business opportunity in the Rec Site with major regional economic benefits that would likely have to be supported by FoRRS.

Comment: input to date has been from 'Users' and "Volunteers"; should FoRRS consider all other 'Stakeholders' in an orderly way – list and review?

Public meeting: is such an event warranted – aren't Board deliberations sufficient? vs

'Justin favours one' & useful for obtaining input for 2017 work season.

Meeting seem to favour that, if there is a public meeting, with regard to the “commercial” issue the Board should make a strong recommendation with rationale for same.

Agreed: next meeting March 2nd, 2017 be devoted entirely (hopefully) to this topic. Kim to attempt to have other business dealt with separately.

Next Meeting - Open to all: March 2nd, 2017