

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday Apr. 6th, 2017
Rossland Library 5:00pm MINUTES

Present: Les Carter*, Troy Colautti*, Kim Deane*, Larry Doell*, Gerry Heacock*, Demitri Lesniewicz*, Don Liszt, Laura Mackay* and Don Vockeroth

*Director

- 1) Letter of support for Lion's Old Growth Project (Draft letter presented at meeting)
Moved & seconded: "That FoRRS provide a letter of support to the Lion's group".
Discussion: suggestions that ATCO's involvement receive greater emphasis.
Approved unanimously.
Kim will finalize and send to Lions group (Bill Profili).
- 2) Search & Rescue (SARS):
(Background: A SARS group exercise during January drew comment due to bus parking in middle of lot on a busy weekend day, and motorized snowmobile traffic on Rec Site trails. And, two incidents over the winter – leg injury near Sunspot, and student in Take-A-Hike school group overnight event requiring first aid).
Laura reported on her meeting with SARS (Graham Jones, 'Dilly' and Tim Peacock) .
Meeting highlighted the need that FoRRS step up its approach to match the several highly organized SARS groups in our region). Complication: multiple local SARS groups.
No substantial issues – primarily improved ongoing communications and information exchanges.
Laura offered to be the contact between FoRRS and SARS.
Graham Jones offered to be the coordinator between FoRRS (Laura primarily) and the several local SARS groups.
SARS requested a 'package' of key information (to be kept up-to-date) from FoRRS including:
 - GPS coordinates of cabins;
 - advice as to best routes to cabins, and other areas of the Rec Site for SARS snowmobiles;
 - FoRRS 'Hosts', or knowledgeable persons who SARS personnel can contact for Rec Site detailed information.Laura will develop this package with assistance from Les and others.
Laura will develop 'SARS' signage (some additional posts may be required).
Related topics raised at meeting:
 - a) Portable emergency WiFi unit possible – by SARS, or FoRRS?
 - b) Rescue toboggans at (some) cabins?
- 3) Branding – Style Guidelines: Gerry & Demitri presented the 8-page Style Guide. Immediate applications will be FoRRS letterhead and signage.
To be provided to Steve Harder of Interior Signs who will be able to fully utilize the standards on FoRRS signs.
Meeting expressed appreciation to Gerry & Demitri for completing this project successfully.
- 4) Additional Parking Update: Proposed 120m road from paved parking lot to an existing usable parking area in pit. Kim advised the necessary Highway Access Permit is being issued to FoRRS this week. Highways pit staff and Encon are supportive verbally. RS&T Rec Site land status sufficient to use Crown Lands for this purpose. Thus, seemingly some progress toward this parking addition.
- 5) Discussion re: snow-plowing: remains a problem to be solved. Recreation parking along highways throughout BC is a major issue. BC Gov't not willing to provide funding to contractors (such as Emcon). Typically, too costly for non-profit groups. Emcon is very good at plowing a few days after a snowfall once the travelled highways have been fully cleared.

- 6) "C150 Community Party" – a key selling point in our successful grant application to the Canada 150 'birthday' program. Application set out a public event at the new Booty's Cabin in November when the snow first arrived.

Meeting identified benefits of an earlier time with road access – decided tentatively for weekend after Thanksgiving. 'Turkey Roast' was suggested (echoing old-timer's such get-togethers).

Also, meeting felt we should stay separate from City of Rossland events as FoRRS strives for a 'regional' role.

- 7) Bonanza: Maps from Paul Beatty distributed at meeting. FoRRS is serving as their umbrella organization as they are not established as a society. They made (in FoRRS name) a 2017 grant application last month to RDKB (CBT), and \$3,000 is being flowed to them from RS&T via FoRRS. Their group, and Justin Dexter appreciate FoRRS helping the Bonanza Rec Site.
- 8) Cabins for 2017 (Booty's, Igloo & Chimo): Les advised that he had separate meetings with the Booty's group (HilTec & Troy) and the Igloo group (3) and has arranged to meet with Bart on site re: Chimo. Plans for 2017 are being started. So far, so good.
- 9) Financial: Kim reported: Project expenditures in 2017: \$110,000.

Project budget for 2017(last year of 3-year total Plan): \$120,000.

FoRRS has \$142,000 in available – leaving \$22,000 carry-over to 2018.

Budget (very much rough guess at this time) (000's):

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------|------|
| Trails & Thinning: | \$40 | Signage | \$ 5 |
| Parking | \$18 | Demolition | \$ 2 |
| New Cabins (2) | \$20 | Administration | \$ 1 |
| Old Glory | \$12 | Contingency | \$16 |

Discussion re additional possible cost items:

- Add Old Glory interpretive signs - Demitri noted that CBT 'Heritage Funds' may also be available for Old Glory (lookout is on the CBT list of Basin heritage sites);
- 'Thinning' & 'Dead & Down' contract work are the biggest, and most adjustable (at the last minute – to utilize funds otherwise lost) costs – need to be done before November;
- Cookie Jar shelter – could be raised above ground to set up further restoration;
- Ideas welcome.

- 10) Signage: comment that historic Cookie's signs, that are not shown on the main trail signposts, may be confusing to some visitors.

Main trail junctions: meeting felt that naming, and showing on the main trail signposts would be helpful (Sunspot group proposing such a junction sign on trail near Sunspot).

Larry plans to preserve many historic Cookie's signs by removing from trees for storage, and replacing at each of their sites with photo replicas on aluminum backing plates.

PS: Following meeting: Justin commented on FoRRS letter of appreciation to Highways & Emcon: "Good letter – these go a long way".

Next Meeting - Open to all: May 4th, 2017

Following meetings: Jun 1st Jul 6th Aug 17th Sep 7th