

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

Present: Les Carter*, Troy Colautti*, Kim Deane*, Gerry Heacock*, Demitri Lesniewicz*, Don Liszt, Laura Mackay*, Rob Richardson*, and Stewart Spooner* *Director

Information at Meeting:

Old Glory Lookout Restoration – photo montage showing progress (2015, 16 & 17)

Drafts of revised North & South maps for website

2017 Work Done List (Nov. 2nd, 2017 version – 2 pages)

- 1) Snowplowing driveway & parking lot for peak demands during weekends & holidays (especially Christmas to New Years)
Emcon to continue past practise which is to widen parking sites using plough trucks, and periodically to 'push back' banks with a Loader.
All parties agree on need for parking – vehicles along travelled surface present a very high risk. Emcon's contract has no funds for clearing parking. Emcon receives many requests for supplementary plowing. Emcon is sensitive to setting precedents and to criticism that, even with minimal parking ploughing their highway winter maintenance is inadequate.
Discussion. Emphasize that FoRRS is stepping up with the new driveway and parking and willingness to do some ploughing, and based on this seek some additional efforts by Emcon to improve the situation.
All present to consider and use contacts in the community to develop options.
(Note: Nov. 3rd (Friday) had 40cm. of snowfall. By Saturday morning, Emcon plough-trucks had substantially cleared the Crowe, Main and Murphy lots. These accommodated the significant crowds on the Saturday and Sunday with only a dozen, or so vehicles forced to park along the highway. Emcon has been thanked for this response.
Monday Nov. 6th, Rod Newton opened the gate and ploughed the new driveway and parking area. Gate left open.
Emcon asked to do their best to keep the entrance to the new driveway clear – not easy when using plough-trucks to clear Main lot.
No 'formal' arrangements in place to have the new driveway and parking area cleared)
- 2) Celebration event at the Booty Cabin was very successful - due mainly to Rob's excellent organization, and work by himself, Sandra and grandson Sam. Meeting expressed appreciation to Rob.
- 3) Eagle's Nest replacement proposed by Rob. He is prepared to lead construction. Meeting agreed that FoRRS submit a request to RS&T BC (Justin). Kim & Rob.
- 4) Naming new loop trail near the Chimo Cabin - Larry's suggestion - "Northern Lights" was agreed to.
- 5) Logging last spring near Hanna Creek trailhead has left large areas with high stumps and 'shattered' in appearance – highly visible from Hwy 3B just north of Rossland. Community concerns based on negative impact on regional tourism theme and risks to skiers on slopes of Mt. Kirkup which is a major, winter back-country recreation site adjacent to Red Resorts.
Area is in Rec Site. Community is suggesting that FoRRS take the lead to address these concerns. 'Owner' is BCTimber Sales who auctioned logging opportunity to 'highest bidder' who, in turn sub-contracted the logging work to a firm that has gone bankrupt.

BCTimber Sales contact is Ken Scown in Castlegar. He is approachable and willing to accept calls from concerned citizens or to meet with community groups. No plans for remedial action. Meeting decided to seek an informed, rough cost estimate to cut down the stumps. Kim.

- 6) Commercial winter tours to cabins in the Rec Site – reportedly, some tours being advertised with no permits from RS&T BC in place. Applications must be made, not to FoRRS, but to RS&T BC (who have guidelines developed by FoRRS, and will seek FoRRS comment in most situations) .
- 7) Financial: Kim advised all is on plan, including the anticipated need for a “bridge loan” (short term) due to C150 requirement that project invoices be paid before a claim can be paid (typically a 2 to 3 week delay). ‘Bridge loan’ up to \$45,000 arranged with Community Futures of Greater Trail. An initial draw of \$30,000; plan is to pay down to \$10,000 within 3 weeks, and to \$0 soon after. Cost of this financing forecast \$150 to \$250.
Kim further advised re: 2018 outlook: FoRRS carry-over “bank balance’ going into 2018 (after 3-year \$260,000 projects to date) will be in the order of \$20,000.
FoRRS to consider 2018 projects and act if some applications for funding should be made. Known 2018 expenditures are limited – completion of Igloo Cabin at a cost of about \$7,000 in 2018; and possibly a new Eagle’s Nest Cabin (about \$10,000). No major trails (excavator) or thinning expenditures are seen currently. Snowplowing costs will be better known after this coming winter.
- 8) Volunteer efforts in Rec Site. Discussion – including several cabin ‘coordinators’ present. Generally satisfactory. No immediate actions identified – to be reviewed once we are more into ‘operational’ mode in future.
- 9) AGM: Wednesday evening 7 pm Nov. 22nd, 2017 at United Church Hall (Seven Summits School)).

Next Meeting - Open to all: December 7th. 2017 (AGM Nov. 22nd, 2017 7pm)
Following meetings: Jan. 11th, 2018 Feb. 8th Mar. 8th