

## **Annual General Meeting – 2017                      Minutes**

(A) Meeting in Seven Summits School (formerly United Church Hall) in Rossland, B.C.

Call to order by the President at 7:05 pm.

Quorum confirmed (5 members required; at least 21 were present of 40, or so at the meeting)

(B) Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting. October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Minutes on Website.

Motion to approve. Seconded. Passed by unanimous vote.

(C) President’s Report: Kim Deane

Referred meeting to “List of Work Done During 2017” (2-page handout), and to the display panel “Rec Site Projects First 3 Years” – Appendix A & Appendix B in these Minutes. This President’s Report is brief, proposing that this large amount of information be open for discussion under New Business.

Highlights of 2017 were the new Booty’s Cabin replacing Booty’s old “Surprise” Shelter, start on the new Igloo Cabin, flooring and painting on the Old Glory Lookout restoration (now well advanced), new trails and the new parking lot.

Special mention of our Website being high quality and up-to-date, and the keeping up of our membership list - both by Sheree Sonfield.

Also, Laura Ranallo, herself an ‘old-timer’ with Cookie & Booty will collect old timer’s stories.

(D) Financial Report

1) 2017 is the third and last year of our initial new Rec Site development under two main projects: ‘Canada 150 Upgrades’ at \$170,000 & ‘New Cabins’ at \$90,000 + 10,000 mh ‘trades-quality’ volunteer work.

2) Van der Ham Income Statements & Balance Sheets are available. A ‘Summary’ is provided herein.

3) Most works for 2017 are complete. Commitments are still to be paid, and final claims, holdbacks and rebates are to be received.

2017: Total: \$99,784 to date plus approximately \$15,000 still to be paid (50% by C150)

Trails - Thinning Contracting (Glading & Dead&Down): \$26,019

Trails - Contracting trailside brushing, widening, culverts \$18,657

Cabins – Bootys (new) \$12.6k, Chimo(completion) (\$0.8k),

                    Igloo (new) (“\$4k” to date) & Crowe’s Nest Shelter (stove)(\$0.5k) \$17,900

Old Glory Lookout Restoration - floor (\$1.7k), paint (\$2.7k) heli (\$11.5k) \$15,941

Parking – Contract \$15,176

Signage - 3 new trailhead kiosks, new maps, signs, etc. \$ 2,914

Celebration Event \$ 1,168

Administration - Accounting (\$0.7k) Website/E-mails (\$0.2k) Cheques (\$0.1k) \$ 1,009

4) Big picture: after 3 years of ‘Development Mode’ with major funding and large contracts for trails, parking, thinning, Old Glory Forestry Lookout restoration and 7 ½ new cabins constructed, we will be shifting to mostly ‘Operating Mode’ – notwithstanding future completion of the last two authorized new cabins, and possibly Eagles Nest. Greater reliance on volunteers in 2018 and beyond.

5) When the large projects are concluded after 2017, FoRRS will have about \$20,000 available going into 2018.

- 6) Ongoing yearly costs in 'Operating Mode' are yet to be determined. Cost items are expected to include plowing, cabin upkeep, trailside brushing (to prevent 'alder' encroachment), sign maintenance, etc.

Question:

What revenues does FoRRS expect in 2018 and beyond? Ans: RS&TBC have provided \$20,000 to \$30,000 in each of the last three initial development years; have advised this will drop to an 'operating' level – likely in the \$3,000 to \$5,000 range each year. FoRRS will pursue additional funding and aggressively encourage donations (with charitable tax receipts for donations of \$20, or more).

Comment:

"I would be willing to pay \$20 for an annual membership". Ans: Understood, and many agree. However, experiences within FoRRS and other societies have shown that managing memberships on an annual basis is a big job, and one for which finding ongoing volunteers is near-impossible.

- E) Fees for 2018: Moved & seconded: Current \$5 lifetime fee continue. Passed unanimously.

F) Election of Directors:

\*Current Directors

6 continuing (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year term): Bob Bechaud\*, Troy Colautti\*, Larry Doell\*, Laura Mackay\*, Demetri Lesniewicz\* and Rob Richardson\*.

5 to be elected. Nominated: Colin Adamson\*, Les Carter\*, Kim Deane\*, Gerry Heacock\* & Stewart Spooner\*.

No further nominations (3 calls). The 5 nominated declared elected by acclamation.

G) New Business:

- Anticipated major future challenge is re-growth in the current large, open cut-blocks – especially for down-skiing routes, but also for views. Glading is to be explored with ATCO. They have been supportive of recreation. We will seek ways to enable volunteer work (using loppers and small saws) at an early-growth stage to thin limited corridors under strict guidelines. Otherwise, if thick forests with larger trees become established, glading is beyond the capacity of volunteers and reasonable fund-raising.

- Q: Has dividing trails by type of activity (ski, bike, snowshoe, etc.) been considered? Ans: Not so far.

- Eagles Nest shelter replacement (additional to the list of 9 authorized cabins) is being requested of RS&TBC. A large number of users advise it is 'just right' for their intermediate activity.

Also, the additional Crowe's Nest shelter is being maintained and upgraded (new stove during 2017) – accepted by RS&TBC for the time being at least.

- Commercial Activity in the Rec Site – especially regarding use of the volunteer-built cabins. Cabin use by the public is very high. Cabin experiences are desirable and attract interest from commercial tour-operators to offer hikes including the cabin visits with meals, etc. FoRRS has developed guidelines (see Website) with the key theme being that public use takes priority. Currently, this would leave very limited space, at best for scheduled bookings by commercial operators. However, it must be understood that RS&TBC make final decisions, taking advice from FoRRS.

- a 'Snowhost' program of some sort, by volunteers is being considered on a trial basis this winter.

Contact Rob Richardson if interested or have ideas how best this may be done.

- Statement by CBT staff person at meeting: "what has been accomplished in 3 years to develop the Rec Site is 'amazing' ". Response – this compliment is much appreciated, adding that our huge community support has been a key to this, demonstrated by the 10,000 volunteer hours – "we have emerged as an army!".

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

## **Appendix A:**

### **Rossland Range Rec Site – Work Done During 2017** Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

#### **I New Parking Lot**

(Contract: Newton Holdings – approx. \$16,000)

New driveway (under Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure [“MOTI”] permit) approx. 120 m long leading to large, prepared area in pit – this, made available to Rec Site by MOTI. Some grading was done in parking area. Gate at driveway entrance. Clearing and burning of forest cover.

Note: Additional new parking has been long sought by FoRR and is very welcome. Plowing in winter needs to be resolved.

#### **II Cabins**

- a) New Booty’s Cabin constructed during 2017. Close to parking, larger than average and with full width stairs to enable this cabin to serve school and community groups.  
A major addition to the Rec Site.
- b) Chimo cabin upgraded by 39<sup>th</sup> Field Engineer’s Squadron – stairs, railings, insulation, stove modification (to enable easier fire lighting) and roof fastening reinforced (subject to strong winds).
- c) Igloo Cabin: demolition materials (old fibreglass igloo) flown out and first stage of construction materials purchased and flown in. Substantial demolition volume accepted by RDKB landfill at no charge.
- d) New stove for Crowe’s Nest shelter.
- e) Red Dog: new entrance ramp (steel grate) and window.

#### **III Trails**

- a) Excavator (Contract – Newton Holdings – approx. \$16,000)
  - 1) Logging roads comprise substantial portions of the Rec Site trails network. Completed heavy roadside brushing (alder, etc.) that had been left undone from last year (nb: in future, hope to maintain cleared areas by simpler, but frequent brush saw work by volunteers).
  - 2) Attempted improvements to problem ‘wet spots’ at bottom of Rock&Roll Road and in the cut-block below the Mosquito Cabin – culvert, ditching & corduroy. Outcomes to be tested this winter.
  - 3) Widened trail link between tops of Sgt Miok and Rock&Roll Roads.
  - 4) Excavations for two new trailhead signs (Crowe Rd. and across from main parking lot). See VI(b)
  - 5) Improved new Midline Trail at south end off Crowe Rd.
  - 6) Installed 3 culverts & fill in deep ditches at end of Rob’s Rd and near Mosquito Cabin (2)
  - 7) Improved Lepsoe trails entrances off main parking lot.
  - 8) Benched new Old Growth Trail section directly across pit to creek.
  - 9) Built new Old Growth Trail section from U-bend on Lepsoe FSR down to Flying Mile Rd.
  - 10) Murphy FSR Trailhead – new link at steeper grade and re-do around wet area at Trailhead.
- b) Brush saw clearing of last year’s heavy roadside clearing areas (2 mandays).
- c) New Midline Trail clearing
- d) Widened Low Road trail link between logging roads
- e) Cleared old Chilkoot Trail
- f) Cleared section of new Old Growth Trail below Flying Mile Rd to creek
- g) Cleared old Alzheimer’s Trail
- h) Cleared new trails near new Chimo - loop trail into extensive cut-block areas to north
- i) Cleared short old trail link from New Parking Lot past Highway’s sand-pile and weather station to the junction of Highway’s pit road & Hwy 3B (across highway from Crowe Trailhead).

#### **IV Glading and 'Dead&Down' ("D&D") Contracting** (Green Tree – approx. \$26,000)

- a) Glading above Cookie Jar (between Gordski & Cookie Roads) – down-ski route via White Owl Pass
- b) Glading below Sunspot; sidehill down to last year's gladed areas in middle of basin
- c) Lepsoe Basin – D&D above last year's glading to ridgetop. This achieves top-to-bottom down-ski routes in this ideal north side basin.
- d) D&D In timber above Mosquito Cabin (adding to last year's successful D&D work)
- e) Elgood (Igloo) Basin (lower)– D&D in narrow neck of timber between cut-blocks (tangled dead fall )
- f) Elgood (Igloo) Basin (upper) – D&D on down-skiing lines up on northeast side
- g) Plewman Trail widened for down-skiing

#### **V Old Glory Forestry Lookout Restoration**

Last year's (2016) work included foundation masonry reinforcement, new door and new windows.

This year's (2017) work was new floor and painting. Both years had lifting down of heavy bags of waste material.

Helicopter costs (trips over two days) were much the majority of expenses, and included the lifting associated with the Igloo Cabin.

(Approx. costs in 2017: \$15,000)

#### **VI Signage**

- a) Concrete bases on 7 signposts on Crowe side – to enable placement in better locations
- b) New trail-head signs (2 posts with roof) at Crowe Road, across highway from main parking lot called 'Main North Trailhead' and at Murphy FSR trail-head.
- c) Planning redo of Lepsoe-side signs due to the many changes this year, plus adding numerous, additional specific signs

#### **VII Maps**

Updating both North and South area maps on the website.

In the field, North Map-Signs (Crowe side) will continue (insufficient changes since last year); the South Map-Sign (Lepsoe & Murphy/Elgood/Pewman) to be replaced due to many changes since last year on Lepsoe side.

#### **VII Other**

- a) Successful Celebration Event on completion of first 3 years of Rec Site with major funding resulting in 7 new cabins, a large parking lot, and major upgrading/restoration of trails, signage, maps, down-skiing routes and Old Glory Forestry lookout.
- b) Charitable Status awarded FoRRS by Canada Revenue Agency effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017
- c) Financial focus with all expenditures by cheques (double-signed) issued by van der Ham accounting and close attention to cash flow and bank balances (including a short-term 'bridge' loan to accommodate major funder Canada 150's payout procedures).
- d) Coordination with local Search & Rescue groups
- e) Established guideline regarding commercial activities in the Rec Site
- f) Established notices for users of cabins
- g) Established 'Branding-Style' guidelines for signage and FoRRS documents
- h) Website maintained up-to-date, and several group e-mails were broadcast
- i) Membership – lists maintained

*'Breaking News' – Nov. 18, '17 Hanna Creek – series of cutblocks along highway last spring – community concerns – high stumps & 'shattered' appearance – risks on ski route exit & visually messy. FoRRS raised concerns with BCTimber Sales who responded by cutting stumps, in snow at cutblock nearest to Rossland. 8 man-days Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

## **Appendix B:**

### **REC SITE - PROJECTS - FIRST 3 YEARS**

#### **(A) SEVEN NEW CABINS & One Begun (of 9 authorized)**

*Lepsoe Basin Mosquito Viewpoint*

*Red Dog (renovation) Sunspot Chimo Booty's Igloo (begun)*

*(plus, Shelters still in use: Crowe's Nest & Barking Spider)*

**\$100,000 + 10,000 volunteer man-hrs**

#### **(B) UPGRADES**

*Parking Lot, Driveway & Gate*

*Trailhead Kiosks (3) Signs Maps on Website*

*Trails - New "Old Growth" "Midline" "Northern Lights" "Chilcootin"*

*Roadside brushing, culverts, & widen main feeder trails*

*Glading & 'Dead&Down' Clearing (for down-skiing)*

*Crowe Lepsoe Elgood Plewman*

*Old Glory Lookout Restoration*

*Demolitions of Old Shelters*

**\$170,000**