

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday Feb. 6th, 2020
Rossland Library 5:00pm MINUTES

Present: Bob Bechaud*, Kim Deane*, Larry Doell*, Gerry Heacock*, Demitri Lesniewicz*, Rob Richardson*, Stewart Spooner*, Don Vockereth*, Sheree Sonfield, and Mike Packham.

*Director

- 1) Motion to approve Minutes of January 9th, 2020 meeting as posted. Motion passed.
- 2) Winter Carnival report: a) Parade Float (won 1st prize) & b) table on main street (which was busy). (Rob, Kim, Don L. & Egbert P.)
Float built by Rob Richardson - trailer w. driver by DJM. Demitri accepted trophy at prize-giving.
'Discover Rossland' event at Miner's Hall for about 44 Rossland non-profit societies:
FoRRS participated with table and display (Bob, Sheree, Don V., Don L. and Rob).
FoRRS received favourable comments from community for participation in these events.
Rob advised that \$429.25 in fees and donations were received at these two events.
- 3) 'Bulletin' idea: place hard copies in cabins; up to a few times per year. Proposed by Rob.
Draft presented included goings on, some guidelines and 3 volunteer sign-up categories (those who sign up will receive e-mails direct to them associated with the work activity).
Down-skiing route clearing: rob@rosslandrange.org
Igloo Shelter completion & trail upgrade: kim@rosslandrange.org
New Crowe's Nest Shelter construction(& demolition of old): Les@rosslandrange.org
Responses to this approach at Discover Rossland event were encouraging.
Content of each Bulletin is intended to be concise (ideally single page) & an easy read.
Meeting was very supportive. Rob to proceed.
- 4) Proposal to attract volunteers for clearing down-skiing routes – Rob
Target two or three manageable, specific areas to be flagged beforehand. Seek 'dedicated volunteers' through e-mail list (see (3) above). Try this approach for 1 or 2 years.
Meeting was very supportive.
- 5) Instagram addition for FoRRS (with Facebook). Volunteer (Roma) offered to assist with this.
Aim being to connect FoRRS to a 'younger demographic'.
There was initial enthusiasm for this as a good step given the aim. But, as discussion at the meeting progressed the Board's long-standing concern about over-promoting the Rec Site beyond its capacity rose to the fore. The addition of Instagram and attached 'hash tags' could contribute to unintended consequences. The meeting felt this risk out-weighed the benefits of raising the FoRRS profile, attracting volunteers and increasing donations.
Meeting resolved not to add Instagram – but, appreciate Roma bringing this forward.
- 6) Plowing & YRB involvement – Rob reported that Simms is performing well and at lower cost due to travel-sharing with Black Jack. YRB have not been much help until last week when two loaders on Hwy 3B corners finally pushed back at Crowe Rd, Main Lot and Murphy Cr. Hanna Cr. not yet done.
- 7) 'Broken Goat' summer running race: e-mail seeking FoRRS endorsement (done for several years).
Meeting supported a FoRRS note of support being sent. (Kim to do). Event July 18th, 2020.
- 8) Referral from RS&T BC to FoRRS re: Packham Avalanche Consulting application to teach avalanche training courses in Rec Site. Meeting supportive. RS&T BC will be so-advised. (Kim to do).

9) Financial:

Operation's funds and Accessible Trail Project funds are satisfactory.

2020 capital program cost estimated at \$30,000 - Crowe's Nest and Igloo shelters, interpretive signage and some miscellaneous.

FoRRS has \$17,000 in hand.

Kim will seek \$13,000 (RS&T BC, Area B, CBT CI&AA Program [March local gov't grants], local businesses and others).

Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC) has voted to contribute \$500 every year for plowing.

10) Sno Hosting activity report: Rob advised limited interest in spite of excellent publicity.

11) Archives – a) Museum will store originals; b) FoRRS to do Index (Roma & Rob).

12) Cookie painting signs report: Larry advised that he and Audrey are doing 15 signs.

13) RS&T BC visit to site Thursday Feb. 6th, 2020.

Justin Dexter and Travis Mitchell from the Nelson office hosted 8 officers from SE BC (including the regional manager based in Cranbrook) and a senior staff person from Victoria.

Kim and Rob attended. Kim made an initial presentation at the new Kiosk and the group hiked to the Booty's (two of the group shoveled off the outhouse roof!) and Eagle's Nest (one of group lit fire and all had lunch) Cabins.

Much discussion throughout.

Points: Rossland Range Rec Site (RRRS) is the 'poster child' for RS&T BC in Victoria for recreation sites. Justin has made presentations in Victoria. They particularly value the great variety (especially families and newcomers) and high numbers of users.

User counts are important to governments (... "they run on numbers" ..)

Justin informed group how little of his time is required to manage this heavily-used recreation asset – "the community (ie: FoRRS) does almost everything".

The 'Hank-Evelyn' back-country rec site near Smithers has two access points and counters.

It has steeper, higher-risk terrain and longer access than RRRS – 5,000 users/year.

The group noted that we are blessed with unique, and difficult-to-find-elsewhere attributes including provincial highway access and wonderfully varied terrain (moderate to steep, higher-elevation areas).

RS&T BC has a summer "Youth Crew" under a CBT program. Might be helpful for RRRS.

14) Airplane photos last May by Larry – selection (20 of 132) put on website. A very good addition.

15) Igloo & Crowe's Nest construction plans in progress. Expected use of helicopter lifting prompted discussion as to whether an ATV 'path' to Igloo might be better value long-term than sporadic helicopter use. No conclusions at this stage. Likely the helicopter is needed for Crowe's Nest this summer 2020 regardless.

16) 2019 Tax Receipts done – only 3, other than 'many dozens' automatically by CanadaHelps.

17) Chainsaw course this year? To increase number of 'chainsaw able' volunteers – especially for the planned down-skiing route clearing. (nb: existing chainsaw-able list to Rob?)

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Meetings: Rossland Library 5pm First Thursday each month

Next: March 5th then, April 2nd, 2020