

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD "MEETINGS" April 1st to 3rd, 2020

MINUTES

Covid 19 Virus has community self-isolating to an extreme extent. Face-to-face meeting at Library was cancelled. It was replaced with the following.

FoRRS "April Meeting" was two- part:

- (A) Meeting #1: E-mail exchanges with all from April 1st to 3rd.
Initiated by "Suggested Topics" E-mail from Kim; and
- (B) Meeting #2: 'Zoom' video-conference 7pm Thursday evening April 2nd.

(A) Meeting #1:

SUGGESTED TOPICS

FoRRS "Meeting" April 1st to 3rd, 2020

dated March 31st, 2020

- 1) Approval of Minutes of March 5th, 2020 meeting. No objections to those posted – Minutes approved.
- 2) Covid-19 virus impacts struck our community beginning March 10th. Physical distancing the key focus. Closures and restrictions announced throughout our communities seemingly 'hourly' during week of March 15th to 21st leading to RS&T BC closing the Rec Site cabins (except for emergency use) after Monday March 23rd.
FoRRS (Rob & Sandra) had signs printed and posted on Kiosks by late afternoon March 24th, and on cabins March 25th.
Sheree led an e-mail broadcast message being developed and issued March 25th.
- 3) Weather and conditions in the Rec Site:
'Unusual' – a term applicable to the 2019/20 winter, continuing into March. Eleven days of no precipitation to March 5th, then 9" of snow total (in sporadic small falls) during the next week, followed by 10 days of brilliant sunshine to late March and now warming mixed sun, rain, wind and snow flurries into April.
Skiing marginal at best during March. However, Rec Site was very busy with people on snow-shoes and in boots – a popular place due to the closures of parks, playgrounds and the Red Ski Hill, distancing easily achieved and dogs being welcomed.
- 4) Community question: why no overnight use of cabins? Answers placed on website and the media. FoRRS believes community understanding is important to help enforce this. (Les)
- 5) Photos: permission for Old Glory interpretive signs was obtained from the four photographers .
- 6) Work proceeding as time permits:
 - a) Archives (physical documents & photos) (Roma, Rob & Kim)
 - b) "Booty" interpretive sign (to match the "Cookie's" sign (Kim)
 - c) Old Glory Interpretive signs: in Lookout & beside Highway (Demitri & Kim)
 - d) Cookie's Painting signs (Larry)
- 7) Plowing Rec Site parking areas:
Gate closed to Additional Lot on March 25th – verging on 'break-up' and Main Lot is adequate. YRB strategy – no volunteer effort until they understand their service area better. We will see. Paved pullout at Viewpoint (below Biathlon) barely plowed this winter. FoRRS asking 'why not?'
- 8) Larger projects during summer/fall 2020 (FoRRS being hopeful they will proceed):
 - a) complete Accessible Trail;
 - b) new Igloo Cabin: (Kim) Advisory Group formed to help finalize the design by May;
 - c) new Crowe's Nest Cabin: (Les) Planning pre-cut "Kit" approach to construction; and
 - d) some Down-skiing Route Clearing groups led by FoRRS (Rob) to inspire more volunteers.

- 9) Admin: 'Charities' annual report accepted; GST refund: \$846; our CIP application for \$5,000 is confirmed to be "in the works" (no group presentations this spring as in the past due to C-19).
- 10) Larry & Rob have explored an interesting 'adventure loop' route: from Main Lot at Pass go up past Eagle's Nest Cabin; then across to Barking Spider Shelter, across to Plewman FSR and down to Murphy Creek Trail-head (Camera). Then, go below Hwy 3B along top end of Murphy FSR to relatively short (needs to be cleared) section up to Trail-head across Hwy from Main Lot. Estimate a 3 to 4 hours trip.

(B) Meeting #2:

'Zoom' video-conference 7pm Thursday evening April 2nd, 2020

Present: Troy Colautti*, Kim Deane*, Gerry Heacock*, Demitri Lesniewicz*, Don Liszt, Laura MacKay*,
Rob Richardson*, Stewart Spooner*. *Director

Note:

Meeting enabled by Stewart's Zoom subscription and organized by Gerry - seemed to go very well.

- a) The meeting reviewed the 'Suggested Topic's' items. There were no significant comments.
- b) Stove for Igloo: Rob had recalled Justin mentioning he had a stove in stock. Rob checked it out and felt it to be suitable. It is now stored in his carport.
- c) Unused FoRRS direction signs: "Parking Lot [with arrow]" Both Paulson and Black Jack XC areas have found these to be necessary – 'some skiers getting lost'. FoRRS thought they would also be required in the Rec Site. However, with 5 years of experience we have found this not to be so. Our map-signs with the 'You-Are-Here' tags are proving to be sufficient. And, FoRRS seeks to minimize signage in the Rec Site.

Rob offered these to Paulson and Black Jack – gratefully accepted.

- d) Stewart mentioned that funds may be available for trails and similar projects to help ramp up employment after the Covid 19 crisis is over. FoRRS could think about possible projects should this happen – may not be until 2021.

This led to a discussion that volunteers might be more available this summer for Rec Site work if people are 'grounded' in the area with time on their hands.

Possibilities include:

- down-skiing route clearing (managing safety with diverse groups);
- human hauling of some materials for Igloo and Crowe's Nest projects (vs. Heli – whole, or in part);
- other?

Related to this, Demitri noted (as has Stewart) that productive work in the back-country (with, or without beer & pizza) can be fun and satisfying for volunteers ...being "part of the story".

FoRRS could serve the community as a good organizer of such activities.

- e) Plane Crash Site. The summer trail to Igloo passes close by with increasing use. Should FoRRS make some effort to preserve/protect this site? Signage at least.

Gov't, military or other interest? Rob to make some inquiries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Meetings: None until Sept. 10th, 2020 (unless called for by special circumstances)