

# Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

## Outdoors in Nickleplate Park, Rossland MINUTES

Present: Randy Bennett, Les Carter\*, Troy Colautti\*, Kim Deane\*, Larry Doell\*, Gerry Heacock\*, Demetri Lesniewicz\*, Laura MacKay\*, Don Liszt, Rob Richardson\*, Stewart Spooner\*, Dolf Van Nus and Don Vockeroth\*.

\*Director

### Note:

**This was the first Board Meeting since March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**The COVID 19 Pandemic struck in March 2020 after our March Board Meeting.**

**It is continuing. It has restricted group gatherings, especially indoors.**

**FoRRS had an informal on-line 'Zoom' meeting attended by some Directors on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Summer was busy as per the attached Update of September 2020.**

**Director's felt the need to see each other – leading to this face-to-face, distanced outdoor meeting.**

**Fortunately, we enjoyed a pleasant evening – children playing nearby and a bear wandered past.**

### Attached: Update of September 2020.

- 1) Igloo Cabin Project: Randy Bennet & Dolf Van Nus attended (nb: Pete Kintoff out-of-town). They have been very involved in this project and provided a verbal report. As of this date, the roof, walls, windows, doors, stairs and insulation are done. This leaves only the railings, stove and inside wall cladding. The new trail has been an additional, major addition. Pete led this.
- 2) Crowe's Nest Cabin Project: Les Carter advised that much of the pre-cut material being held until heli-lifting next summer can be stored with Alan Davies. Still a need for some indoor storage space.
- 3) Accessible Trail Project: trail tread complete and recent rains have firmed up the surface. The ramp at Booty's Cabin has required considerable design effort. It is in place and a great success. The summer, accessible outhouse will be assembled within a few days.  
Area B (Director Linda Worley) provided an additional \$10,000 to complete funding.  
A public relations photo-shoot to mark the opening is being scheduled – including a wheelchair person.  
Question: A recent visitor with a powered cart had difficulty getting past the locked gate to reach the trail.  
Answer: Rob advised the gate is to be moved to correct this problem.
- 4) Red Dog Cabin upgrades: Don V. reported significant work done to keep this historic cabin in good shape. New dark red metal roofing on cabin and outhouse, opaque panels in outhouse and porch painted.
- 5) Booty's Cabin upgrade: back stairs completed (Troy) and back exterior cladding (Rob).
- 6) Cabin use this winter 20/21 given the COVID 19 situation.  
Situation since last spring: "Cabins Closed – Except for Emergency Use" & left unlocked.  
Discussion:  
There has been some use of the cabins (and even signing of the visitor's books !).  
RS&T BC has issued guidelines for maximum occupancy that allow only 2,3 or 4 persons at a time.  
Cabin occupancy is unmanaged with no cleaning. Many visitors from outside Kootenay regions.  
Cabin volumes are small. No way to know if air has become contaminated.

Motion:

Moved and seconded:

*“That FoRRS recommend to RS&T BC that the current status continue as “Cabins Closed – Except for Emergency Use”; cabins remain unlocked; and RS&T BC issue the directives (not FoRRS) using the RS&T BC logo.”*

Motion passed unanimously.

Les Carter to follow up with RS&T BC.

- 7) Cabin firewood question: should firewood supplies be reduced as a means of restricting numbers of persons in cabins. RS&T BC feel that firewood should be normal – otherwise people will seek whatever wood might be handy which could lead to problems.
- 8) Annual General Meeting (AGM): Agreed it will be on-line. Stewart offered to help set it up – he is very familiar with this given all his other activities. Kim to follow up to arrange this format.
- 9) Comment: media occasionally mis-represent use of Rec Site facilities (eg: Old Glory Lookout available for camping). Please advise Sara Golling if any are noted and she will seek to correct the information.
- 10) SAR Group used Mosquito Cabin as a base for a training event (under strict guidelines established through Les). They have advised that it was very satisfactory and much appreciated.
- 11) Financial:

Overall – satisfactory.

Grant of \$10,000 from Area B (Director Linda Worley) for completion of Accessible Trail.

Annual grant of \$500 from the Kootenay Mountaineering Club for snowplowing.

CBT Community Initiatives Program (March -April) local gov'ts: \$3,800 received.

RS&T BC: 'annual grant' of \$5,000 received – plus additional \$2,500 for new cabins & upgrades.

Donations so far during 2020 – about \$3,000. Usually a step up at tax year-end (Dec-Jan).
- 12) '3B Trail' Section: Stewart reported the Trail Society has received a very large grant to construct a wide, comfortable biking, hiking, skiing trail about 8 km long in the Rec Site. Above Hwy 3B from opposite the Black Jack Biathlon parking lot to Strawberry Pass.
- 13) Doctor's group inquired if any new cabins are needed or other community projects. Were advised the 10 authorized cabins are done. They welcome any other suggestions.
- 14) Work underway:
  - a) Signage content – Main Kiosk – Laura
  - b) Cookie's paintings signs – Larry
  - c) Archives – Rob. Roma & Kim
  - d) Booty's sign on Kiosk – Kim & Rob
  - e) Old Glory signs beside Hwy 3B – Kim & Rob
  - f) Accessible Trail-head area signs – Rob
  - g) Thinning work party – above Rob's Road – Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> - Rob

**Next meeting:**

**To be advised – probably will be the on-line Annual General Meeting in late November. However, otherwise if required.**

### **Update September 2020**

1)Hiking activity has been very high with the public seeking outdoor recreation. Rec Site cabins continued to be closed (since March - except for emergency use). Facilities have been used respectfully. One incident was a vehicle making a mess trying to travel from the top of Crowe Road across to Cliff

Road. Rob happened to meet two young fellows. They were apologetic - said they just followed off the end of Crowe Road and got into the wet section. Rob put signs at each end to deter such use in future.

### 3) New Igloo Cabin

A grand new Igloo Cabin is near completion in its spectacular alpine basin. It's a wonderful addition to the Rec Site, in a great place to explore beyond the Lepsoe - Crowe concentration of cabins. And it's also a success story about challenges, motivated volunteers, and an excellent outcome.

A year ago Pete Kintoff came to our September FoRRS Board meeting seeking help to complete the cabin. Earlier, under Pete's leadership, many loads of materials had been helicoptered to the site, and much hard work had been done to prepare the site and place footings, but the project needed a boost. The [next Sunday](#) several FoRRS Directors and volunteers went to the site to lend a hand. In one "heavy duty" day, Pete and the crew dug and poured several more of the required footings. Then, an unusual heavy September snowfall ended the 2019 work season, but with good momentum having been generated.

Thus inspired, the Igloo crew went into high gear early this year, even while the site was still covered in snow. Pete, Brian Adair (from the original Igloo group) and others ferried materials via multiple snowmobile trips, and Randy Bennett and friends shoveled out the building site. Since then, Pete has led the project 'from-the-front,' frequently working on site himself during the week, and attracting skilled volunteers through social media and personal contacts - many different people - with carpenter Dolf Van Nus involved extensively since mid-August.

A unique and satisfying feature of the project is that more than 20 heavy structural components were chainsaw-milled on site from nearby dry spruce by skilled volunteers brought in by Pete and Brian.

In addition, Pete finalized a much better new trail route, and arranged for the Forestry 'Rapid Attack' crew to help build it. Due to the low fire season they were able to come several times and develop an excellent track. As well, a faller friend cleared a large number of dead trees near the cabin site for safety.

Quite an accomplishment led by Pete in the one year since last September.

### 4) New Crowe's Nest Cabin (Les)

A new, approved Crowe's Nest cabin is well under way. Thanks to Allan Davies' generous loan of a good, big space in his industrial building, a compact but tough team of volunteers (Steve, Trevor and Les) was able to completely pre-cut and test assemble the cabin in civilization during the past few months, then disassemble it ready to be helicoptered to the high country. It's cute! Up on the mountain, serious digging and rock work has been done to create foundations that don't require concrete work. (The cabin is small and light, the site is at considerable elevation, and concrete is heavy. She'll be right!)

Rather than flying the cabin pieces to the site this fall, the team has decided to carefully put the cabin "to bed" in Rosslund for the winter, and focus on getting the foundations completely ready for an early heli trip next year. When the omens are auspicious, the new Crowe's Nest will appear on the mountain like magic. (There will be interesting work for volunteers then.) In the meantime, the old Crowe's Nest remains fully functional. Later, it will become the woodshed for the new cabin - a few short steps away, and big enough to chop wood in.

Because the Crowe's Nest is in a sensitive area some 100 meters higher than any of the other cabins, the building team has been careful to keep the project as non-invasive as possible - small cabin, minimal trails (helicopter is less intrusive than hauling on a high trail), and no heavy cutting and constructing on site, resulting in minimal garbage to take out, and little wear and tear on the surrounding meadows. The new Crowe's Nest is intended to live quietly and unobtrusively on Mt. Crowe for a long time

5) Accessible Trail Project (Rob)

A1 km flat loop around and through the Strawberry Pass Pit area. It passes the Booty's Cabin (with a new, removable accessible ramp) and a summer accessible outhouse near Alzheimer's Junction. Last year, the route was finalized, cleared, excavated and filled to rough grade. This summer the wood waste was piled for burning and trail features including bump-outs for benches were completed. Then, top dressing was trucked to site and distributed along the trail. Compaction has been completed but awaiting help from mother nature to really firm it up. Signage has been printed and will be installed soon.

Simms (who does our snow-plowing) has been the prime contractor.

Rob has communicated with Accessible Trail experts throughout BC, local wheelchair users and Area B Director Linda Worley (including a site tour).

6) Old Glory Lookout (Demitri)

Lookout is in good shape (per visit early in August). Evidence of overnight use - furniture moved, display radio box outside and garbage in crawlspace.

Interpretive sign designs are complete. Remain to be printed and installed. Once in place, they may help discourage people from camping in the Lookout.

7) Work on Existing Cabins

a) New metal roof on Red Dog Cabin (Don)

b) Back of Booty's Cabin - stairs (Troy) and siding (Rob)

8) Signs

a) 3 new, small Kiosks being placed: Cookie's, Booty's and Gibbard/Old Glory (at Hwy 3B). (Rob).

Kiosks provided by RS&T BC

b) Main Kiosk content (Laura)

c) Cookie's Painting signs (Larry)

9) Other

a) Archives (Rob, Roma & Kim with Museum)

10) Operations this coming winter given Covid19 Situation

Q: Will some use of cabins be permitted? Ans: RS&T BC will provide direction....not yet known.

Q: Firewood? Ans: Consensus is firewood should be got in for this winter regardless.

11) Scheduled Work Parties This Fall

Only work party currently contemplated by FoRRS overall is for down-skiing route thinning.

Probable location: between top of Crowe Road and Rob's Road. To be finalized.

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club are willing to post notice of this work party on their e-mail broadcast list.

12) FoRRS Board-Executive Meeting & AGM

Kim to coordinate input and develop plans.

13) Financial

In good order. Reserve of \$10k, and sufficient funds to complete projects underway this year and next, and for operations (including snow-plowing) this coming winter.

14) Recent Search & Rescue Request to Use a Cabin

SAR request as a base for a training exercise. FoRRS uneasy given public not being able to use the cabins, and likelihood they have other options. Referred to RS&T BC who will decide in any case.