

Annual General Meeting 2020 MINUTES

(Issue: Nov. 29, 2020)

November 25th, 2020 7:00pm

During COVID 19 pandemic – virtual meeting using Zoom on-line application. Everyone at home.

Thanks to Stewart for providing the Zoom set-up, which worked well.

Present:

Bob Bechaud*, Les Carter*, Troy Colauti*, Kim Deane*, Dan Derby, Larry Doell*, Sara Golling, Gerry Heacock*, Demitri Lesniewicz*, Laura MacKay*, Don Liszt, Chris Marsh, Mark Miller, Rob Richardson*, Sheree Sonfield, Stewart Spooner* and Don Vockeroth*. *Director

- 1) Call to order at 7:05pm
- 2) Motion to accept Agenda as circulated in the AGM Handout. Carried.
- 3) Quorum confirmed (5 members required) – all of the 17 attendees were members.
- 4) Minutes of 2019 AGM (on Website during 2019). Motion to approve. Carried.
- 5) President's Report:
See (A) below.
- 6) Financial Report:
See (B) below.
- 7) Fees for 2020. Motion to continue \$5 Lifetime Membership fee. Carried.
- 8) Elections: 6 (of 11) Director's positions (2-year terms) vacant.
(Note: Director's Les Carter, Kim Deane, Gerry Heacock, Stewart Spooner, & Don Vockeroth continuing for one more year)
6 person nominated (all incumbent Directors): Bob Bechaud, Troy Colautti, Larry Doell, Laura MacKay, Demitri Lesniewicz and Rob Richardson.
The 6 nominated persons were declared elected by acclamation.
- 9) Old & New Business: See 'Open Discussion' below.
- 10) Open discussion:
Snowplowing paid for by FoRRS: Last 2 years, 10 times and about \$4,000 cost each year.
Kootenay Mountaineering Club contributes \$500 each year for plowing.
Many believe YRB do the plowing. Need to better inform public of FoRRS role, the costs and to seek donations.
Suggestions: signs at sites, social media and focus at year-end when donations increase for tax deductions. Accept that people don't carry cash these days.
Rob advised an "As The Crowe Flies" bulletin is planned soon.
Accessible Trail plans: Rob reported that two benches will be installed next summer and 'offshoot trails' to points of interest are being explored (possibly including an upgrade to the Old Growth Trail crossing of Booty Creek – wet area).
Rob & Sheree advised there was a very positive response to the 'Drone Video' (by wheelchair user Kyle Hahn) posted on the FoRRS Website. Kyle also advised Rob on trail design.
Old Glory Lookout plans: Demitri advised that interpretive signs are ready for printing and will be installed next summer. Otherwise, the extensive renovation over several years is complete.
Meeting took note of the role the Old Glory Lookout has played in the Rec Site. The renovation has been very substantial led by Demitri. The base structure is sound and the overall appearance inside and out is now very pleasing. Public interest in the Lookout as a hiking

destination is high as it continues to be a 'rite of passage' experience in our region.

Demitri noted the new exterior paint job is showing a few signs of wear after 3 years.

Also noted the historic lookout has been beneficial when seeking grants and funding.

Signage: positive comments - signs in the Rec Site are making visitors safe and feeling comfortable.

Public use of the highways pit slopes is high – snowboarding and kids tobogganing. School groups.

"Cabins Closed – Except for Emergency Use": compliance by Rec Site users, with '2nd Wave' Covid cases rising in BC currently, is good. Some bonfires on the snow in front of cabins. A bit too close to the Booty Cabin.

11) Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

(A) President's Report:

- 1) FoRRS management, (including the Website) and Rec Site operations overall were good.
- 2) Hiking activity high due to public outdoor, spaced recreation during the COVID pandemic.
- 3) COVID 19 struck in March forcing "Cabin's Closed – Except for Emergency Use – continuing.
- 4) New Igloo Cabin completed – led by Pete Kintoff & Dolf Van Nus – plus, many in support.
- 5) Accessible Trail completed with a fine Grand Opening on October 6th. (Rob Richardson)
- 6) New Crowe's Nest Cabin well advanced. Completion planned in July/August 2021. (Les Carter)
- 7) Red Dog Cabin new roof & Booty Cabin back wall stairs & cladding.
- 8) Signage upgraded including small Kiosks for Booty & Cookie signs. Design of Old Glory Lookout interpretive signs completed with installation next summer 2021.
- 9) Governance: Board was effectively engaged during 2020. Monthly meetings to March; then one outdoor, spaced meeting in early October and this virtual AGM. Otherwise, e-mail communications.

Above items in AGM Handout – following items were raised during the AGM:

- a) Final work on Igloo Cabin continuing – mostly Dolf Van Nuss & Rob Van Beek: stove complete; some interior paneling remaining. Danger tree removal on trail by Mike Packham. Cabin usable as is.
- b) Financial: received the expected \$3800 from community CBT-CIP program, and the \$2,500 holdback on CBT's \$25,000 Accessible Trail grant.
- c) First 2020/21 plowing by Simms (great call by Rob) on Saturday morning Nov. 14th with 40 cm of new snow and brilliant sunshine! Simms did all lots thoroughly. Huge first-time crowds. All lots filled up. Positive comments on the plowing - many believing it had been done by YRB. Rob also contacted Black Jack. They had the Biathlon Lot plowed (sharing Simms travel costs) – which then filled to overflowing.
- d) Rob & Kim met with senior YRB people – encouraging after 2-year hiatus – still no major changes.
- e) FoRRS has written the Province proposing modest funding for recreation plowing along highways during this upcoming COVID winter – funds distributed through RS&T BC so local groups can hire local plowing contractors.
- f) "Cabins Closed – Except for Emergency Use" signs are being added where necessary, and the "March Date" on older signs is being covered by labels.
- g) FoRRS Director Larry Doell received this year's City of Rossland's major volunteer award: "Community Contribution Award". Well deserved – and a credit to FoRRS. Congratulations Larry.
- h) Special mention of Rob's contributions during 2020 (with Sandra's help) – only the highlights: calling the shots for Simms plowing (10 times - much judgement required); exceptional job managing the Accessible Trail project; new Kiosks for Cookie & Booty signs; brush-saw clearing on road/trails to keep alder at bay, thinning work party, and siding on back of Booty Cabin.

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 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.

A great accomplishment led mainly by Pete in the one year since last September.

C) Accessible Trail Project Completed (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 has a summer accessible outhouse near Alzheimer's Junction. Last year (2019), 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 and compacted. Signage has been installed.

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

A nice Opening event on October 6th was attended by all key parties involved in this project plus some old-timers.

Financial: : \$65,000 raised, with about \$58,000 spent to date. Additional trail is contemplated.

Rob Richardson has managed this project exceptionally well including communications with Accessible Trail experts throughout BC, local wheelchair users and key funders (Area B Director Linda Worley, CBT and RS&T BC).

D) 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 Rossland 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

- E) Old Glory Lookout (Demitri)
Lookout is in good shape. Apparently, some 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.

END