

**Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Tuesday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Outdoor in Nickleplate Park, Rossland 5:00pm MINUTES**

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

\*Director

**Note:**

**First Board Meeting since Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - FoRRS 'Zoom' Annual General Meeting**  
**In the mean-time there have been e-mail updates and exchanges for ongoing operations.**

1) Agreed – 2021 Annual General Meeting by 'Zoom' on Wednesday evening November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Note: Continuing as Directors next year: Bob, Troy, Larry, Demitri, Laura, & Rob

FoRRS nominations at upcoming AGM for 2-years terms: Les, Kim, Gerry, Stewart & Don

**2) Upgrades in Rec Site this year:**

- a) New Crowe's Nest Cabin status **(Les)**: trail established, 6 'gabion' footings completed on site and prefab materials being stored for winter in town. A heli-lift as soon as possible next year. Old shelter available this coming winter. Assembly of prefab structure expected to take about 4 days.
- b) Accessible Trail completion & Extension to a Viewpoint **(Rob)**: benches installed, outhouse painted (crew by RS&T BC), general clean-up and new Extension to a Viewpoint 'roughed in'. Ramp at Booty's Cabin in place for summer. Funding obtained from Area B (Director Linda Worley).  
Upgrade at adjacent bottom of Old Growth Trail (across & above creek) planned next year as part of this project. Ramp at Booty's to be stored for the winter.
- c) Old Glory:  
Highway Trail-head Kiosk, landscape improvements and signage completed **(Rob & Kim)**  
Lookout (Inside) **(Demitri)** – interpretive signs installed + 'Fire-finder'. Demitri will do one more trip up to the Lookout to 'close up' for winter (shutters).  
Met Station foundation: **(Demitri)** - four outdoor signs on foundation; contractor (Heather Smith) engaged to research and draft texts.  
(Note: extremely high numbers of hikers to Old Glory this year.)
- d) 'Camera' Parking Lot expansion **(Rob)** : Reviewed with ATCO, Highways and BC Timber Sales. Initial work – one day with large machine donated by ATCO. Final machine work by Simms. Wood waste pile to be burned by ATCO before snowfall. Direction signs to 100 Acre Wood are much needed. Lions Club to get them and may ask if FoRRS can install.
- e) Main Trail-head Kiosk display content and map (Rob & Kim)  
Planning to have stories, photos, and map-sign (by Lars). One side panel is for Trail Society. FoRRS is exploring a First Nations statement.  
(Note: Currently the only item in the Rec Site re: First Nations is an interpretive sign in the Old Glory Lookout with historic photo of Sinixt in distinctive canoe).
- f) Igloo Cabin: Interior panels completed last April (Pete – using snowmobile access). Randy reported 37 large trees down across the trail after winter. An epic chainsaw effort by Les cut them out with Randy, Dolf, Leif & others as 'throwers'. The latter have also done additional jobs at the cabin.
- g) New Cedar Trail (2022): **(Stewart)** Reported in detail regarding a major new 20 km trail being established from near Rossland (Mann Road) to Strawberry Pass. It will run through the Black Jack (& Frisbee Golf) networks. It will utilize Aqueduct. Then, an entirely new section built from Aqueduct to Biathlon (being completed this Fall). Next year a major new section 8 km above Hwy 3B from Biathlon to our Rec Site MainTrailhead at the Pit. From its upper end the new Cedar Trail

utilizes the existing Seven Summits Trail (upgraded in places) as far as the Flying Mile area. It then branches off south to pass well below the Eagle's Nest Cabin and into the 'Barking Spider Basin'.

A wide, comfortable trail for 'Family' bike riding and hiking, skiing, etc. Stewart expects it will make the Rec Site much busier during summers. The trail is being routed, where possible through large 'Old Growth' stands. It is named the Mexi't Xweith (Cedar) Trail.

- h) New archway wood 'Sculpture' over the combined Seven Summits & new Cedar trails as they leave the trail-head from the Main Rec Site parking lot. **(Lars Baggenstos)**  
Lars attended the meeting and outlined his raising funds, designing, building and installing the Sculpture. He plans to have the Sculpture installed this Fall. (Note: Lars is also doing the pictorial map for the Main Sign Kiosk)  
Lars, Rob & Kim to meet on site to coordinate the Sculpture location with Accessible & Old Growth trail-heads. Many options - no problems foreseen.

### 3) Other & Ongoing:

- a) Financial – (Kim) More than sufficient funds in hand for snowplowing and planned projects including. Crowe's Nest Cabin completion, Accessible Trail additions, Old Growth Trail improvements, new Crowe-side map signs, Cookie painting sign replacements, Main Sign content and Met Station signage.
- Area B grants received for Accessible Trail & adjacent Old Growth Trail at creek.
  - Major donation - K&P Lewco Foundation (Ontario & Rossland residents).
  - ATCO – one day of large machine to start "Camera' Parking Lot expansion; & burning.
  - CBT 'Spring" program - \$3,800 grant for 'Signage'
  - RS&T BC \$5,000 (annual intended)
  - Kootenay Mountaineering Club \$500 (annual for snowplowing)
- b) Viewpoint Cabin bearskin (Rob): bearskin has appeared unannounced fastened high up (ladder needed) in Viewpoint Cabin. General discussion. Meeting noted FoRRS' respect for the hunting permitted in the Rec Site, and appreciated the display as being well-meaning. But, the meeting judged the display is not appropriate in a Rec Site cabin with wide-spread public use. Further, fumes from the bearskin have been detected in the small cabin space.  
Rob will attempt to contact the owner. Rob will remove it, and if necessary leave a prominent note with contact information.
- c) Invasive information-boot brush unit. (Rob) This to be installed by an Invasive Group with FoRRS permission at an agreed-upon location clear of snowplowing, etc. A communications mix-up between the Invasive Group and their contractor resulted in it being placed near the Main Kiosk where it will conflict with snowplowing. Rob will arrange for removal for this winter and re-installation in an agreed location next summer.
- d) Road brushing. Most key roads done this Fall by Rob & Sandra. Many positive comments. Rob used the brush saw owned by FoRRS.  
Meeting expressed appreciation to Rob & Sandra.
- e) Old Growth preservation – Many 'cathedral-like' groves in & near Rec Site. Provincial protests.  
FoRRS current actions are to avoid confrontation while maintaining close contacts with Forest entities – Ministry, Timber Sales, ATCO, etc. Appears to be effective – FoRRS is considered to be credible and effective. No proposed logging currently in our Old Growth areas of interest - to our knowledge. FoRRS to remain vigilant and keep up good contacts. Meeting supported this approach by FoRRS. Some skepticism expressed as to whether our 'public' involvement really makes much difference to outcomes.
- f) First Nations acknowledgement: Discussion. Meeting expressed support for appropriate material on Main Trail-Head Sign (Kiosk) and/or otherwise. Trail Society has a First Nations name on the

new Cedar Trail They can likely assist FoRRS as to how to proceed. To be followed up by FoRRS.

g) Big Red Cats . Our tenure neighbour Big Red Cats has reportedly been sold by Keiran Gaul. Again reportedly, and partly thanks to Google the new owners are a family-owned enterprise led by Jon Schaefer (who operates the Berkshire East Mountain Resort & Catamount Ski Area in New England). Kieran has been a strong supporter of FoRRS and the Rec Site. This, after his tenure location had been settled. His first choice was in the Old Glory area and was strongly opposed by the community. This led to the community 'energizing' FoRRS. Kieran then obtained a very large tenure 'across the highway' This has seemingly been suitable for Big Red Cats operations and the community, through FoRRS has achieved the unique Rossland Range Rec Site in the Old Glory area.

h) **Not discussed at meeting:**

- i) Archives
- ii) Mike Packham has done some thinning in Lepsoe Basin
- iii) Replacing Cookie's paintings signs – Larry proceeding as time available.
- iv) FoRRS request of Highways that FoRRS be involved in future of Pit (on behalf of the community) when Pit is exhausted and closed for Highway's use. Letter sent with verbal follow-ups. No official response to date. FoRRS to remain vigilant.
- v) Website – upgrading done last winter

***Cabins – Covid:***

***FoRRS and RS&T BC are hoping for more clarity before winter.***

***Until then: "Cabin Closed – Except For Emergency Use"***

***Opening cabins to public use to any extent is problematic due to:***

- ***small & very tight spaces in cabins;***
- ***uncertain ventilation depending on occupant's actions;***
- ***entirely un-managed situations.***

***Final decision will be by RS&T BC.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next meeting: Annual General Meeting by Zoom, or equivalent November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.