

Friends of the Rossland Range Society (FoRRS)
Annual General Meeting 2021 MINUTES

Issue: Dec. 8th, 2021

November 24th, 2021 7:00pm

During COVID 19 pandemic the meeting was virtual using Zoom. Everyone 'at home'.

Thanks to Stewart for providing the Zoom set-up and guidance – it worked well.

Present:

Les Carter*, Troy Colautti*, Kim Deane*, Larry Doell*, Sara Golling, Gerry Heacock*, Carol Hobbs DeRosa, Demitri Lesniewicz*, Cindy Loukras, Chris Marsh, Rob Richardson*, Stewart Spooner*, Sean Thornton and Thom Volpatti. *Director

- Chair (Kim Deane) welcomed all present, especially FoRRS members not on the Board:
Cindy Loukras, Chris Marsh, Carol Hobbs DeRosa, Sean Thornton & Thom Volpatti
- Chair announced a major change effective immediately:
Cabins will be open, but with limited Maximum Occupancies due to the continuing Covid situation.
This follows 1 ½ years of: "Cabins Closed – Except for Emergency Use".
Maximum Occupancies:
Larger cabins (Booty's, Red Dog, Mosquito & Igloo) – 6
Smaller cabins (Lepsoe Basin, Sunspot, Chimo, Eagle's Nest & Viewpoint) – 4
Old Crowe's Nest Shelter – 2
Masks required, vaccinations recommended, stays of 20 minutes if people waiting.

- 1) Call to order at 7:06pm
- 2) Motion to accept Agenda as circulated in the AGM Handout. Carried.
- 3) Quorum confirmed (5 members required) – all of the 14 attendees were members.
- 4) Minutes of 2020 AGM (on Website during 2021). Motion to approve Minutes. 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: 5 (of 11) Director's positions (2-year terms) vacant.
6 Director's continuing for one more year:
Bob Bechaud, Troy Colautti, Larry Doell, Laura MacKay, Demitri Lesniewicz & Rob Richardson
5 persons nominated for 2 year terms (all were Directors during the last 2 years):
Les Carter, Kim Deane, Gerry Heacock, Stewart Spooner, & Don Vockeroth
No further nominations. The 5 nominated persons were declared elected by acclamation.
(Chair advised that FoRRS can accommodate persons interested in a Board or Executive position.
Please speak to any Board member)
- 9) Old & New Business – open discussion:
 - a) Several expressions of appreciation for Board's efforts to achieve the good operations in 2021.
 - b) Q: Any estimate of numbers of users in the Rec Site?
Ans: RS&T BC is interested in this as well. Difficult to get an exact count due to multiple points of entry into the Rec Site, significant use every day throughout each year and use during all hours.

Suggestion: at least do periodic vehicle counts and extrapolate this data to achieve a reasonable, rough estimate of total annual usage.

- c) Suggestion: expand 'Camera' Lot (100 Acre Wood, Igloo Cabin access, etc.)

Ans: This lot was doubled in size this last summer. Further, there is room for more expansion if required. This will be monitored.

10) Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

(A) PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- 1) Overall, a good year in the Rec Site with the Covid pandemic continuing from March 2020 at a significant level, and in spite of (unfortunately) "Cabins Closed – Except for Emergency Use". High use in the Rec Site throughout the year as people sought outdoor activities. Of note was the large increase in summer hiking to Old Glory.

At this time in late November cabin openings are being announced. These are with limited Maximum Occupancies following Provincial Health Officer spacing guidelines and taking account of limited ventilation in our small cabins. Booty's, Red Dog, Mosquito & Igloo – 6
Lepsoe Basin, Sunspot, Chimo, Eagle's Nest & Viewpoint – 4
Old Crowe's Nest Shelter – 2

Announcements will be by signs posted on site and on the FoRRS Website and through Facebook. These openings will be well received by Rec Site users who have been extremely disappointed by the cabin closures.

Longer term overall, FoRRS management will be shifting to 'Operations & Maintenance' mode as the 10th of 10 new cabins nears completion (planned for next summer).

- 2) Board governance – one outdoor meeting during October 2021. Otherwise, FoRRS business was conducted via emails, telephone calls and small, spaced gatherings. "550" members.
- 3) Snowplowing of parking lots has become highly valued by Rec Site users. While YRB seeks to assist, they are only able to do so after highway plowing is completed – often after several days or more. FoRRS does plowing immediately after most snowfalls. YRB helps later by pushing back banks, etc. On occasion, YRB is able to do considerable plowing of FoRRS lots just after a snowfall. This cannot be relied upon, but is much appreciated.
FoRRS snowplowing expense during 2021 was \$5,800 for 10 plowing days. This expense is likely to increase in future due to popular demand.
FoRRS plowing is accomplished by Rob Richardson making the calls to contractor Simms who send their Loader machine to do the plowing.
Plowing at Biathlon (Black Jack XC) is done at the same time with costs shared.
- 4) Work done during 2021:
- a) Booty's interpretive sign & Kiosk at Booty's Cabin installed during winter (Kim, Rob, Les) – complimentary to the Cookie's sign on north side.
- b) New Crowe's Nest Cabin (Les): Prefab complete and stored in town. Trail (part on Cliff Road) from top of Crowe Road established by cutting and digging (Pulaski). Six gabion foundations completed. Heli lift of prefab package planned for next summer (2022).
Old Crowe's Nest shelter in use for this coming winter 2022.

- c) Old Glory signage: At trailhead beside highway, landscaping improvements and new Kiosk (Rob) with two large interpretive signs – Gibbards/Lookout & Met Station.
In Lookout – (Demitri) interpretive signs installed – adding to fire-finder display.
(Demitri also ensured the Lookout’s winter shutters were removed & re-installed during 2021).
 - d) Accessible Trail: (Rob) benches installed; outhouse painted (RS&T BC crew). Signage added.
 - e) ‘Camera Parking Lot’ (Igloo Cabin access & 100 Acre Wood): (Rob) Doubled in size using large machines – one day donated by ATCO, plus contractor Simms. Approval obtained through meetings with ATCO, Forestry Small Business group and Highways.
 - f) Pit: (Rob) Accesses blocked except for a route through FoRRS’ Back Parking Lot and through new FoRRS gate with lock. This followed Rob’s meeting(s) with YRB and Highways. New Kiosk installed at far end of Back Parking Lot (Rob).
 - g) Considerable deadfall cut out by volunteers: Igloo Trail (Les); Seven Summits Trail (Ken); and elsewhere. Glading: (Mike). Trails on roads clearing by brush saw: (Rob & Sandra)
 - h) Demolition of old Igloo Shelter begun (metal off roof) by ‘Firemen Crew’.
- 5) Website upgraded by Sheree & others. Also, maintained up-to-date by Sheree through 2021.
- 6) Membership List: maintained by Sheree throughout 2021. In the order of 550 members.
- 7) Highways Pit confirmed for Rec Site use if, and when Pit no longer needed by Highways.
FoRRS has sent a letter to Highways and is following up with personal contacts. Awaiting a response.
- 8) FoRRS initiative with BC Gov’t (Kim & Rob plus Outdoor Research Council of BC).
Given Covid is causing increased winter outdoor public use, FoRRS proposed BCGov’t assistance for plowing of parking for recreation throughout BC - ‘Covid funding’, and that it be funneled through RS&T BC staff throughout BC.
RS&T BC is within BC Ministry of Forests with its Minister being our local MLA Katrine Conroy.
FoRRS received a ‘lukewarm’ response – “RS&T BC will continue to engage with local groups....”.
- 9) “As The Crowe Flies” bulletins in cabins and broadcast to members. Two issues in 2021 (Rob).
- 10) Huge volunteer efforts by many during 2021 to keep the Rec Site going. This is acknowledged and appreciated. It includes maintenance of cabins and supply of firewood.
- 11) ‘Threat’ to Rec Site – continuous growth of young trees in clear-cut areas which will increasingly impede down-skiing and views.
Volunteers are not taking advantage of FoRRS having permission for glading. This permission is subject to some follow-up spot checks by ATCO and forestry to judge if ‘forestry values’ are being reduced to any extent - not likely by FoRRS volunteer’s manual efforts.
- 12) Trail Society News: (Stewart)
New 8km long, comfortable trail to be built in the summer of 2022 from Biathlon to Strawberry Pass above Hwy 3B (in Rec Site). And, City of Rossland to build similar quality trail from Black Jack trail-head (Richie Mann’s corrals) to near Black Jack’s Gibbard’s Cabin This will complete a wide, comfortable trail from ‘Richie Mann’s corrals to Strawberry Pass. Trail Society expects this trail will be heavily used – adding to activity in the Rec Site. Trail name: Mxitp Xewith - Cedar Trail.
A wood portal (sculpture) by local artist Lars Baggenstos has been installed over the Seven Summits Trail just below the Main Parking Lot at Strawberry Pass.
- 13) Work Proposed (Tentative) for Next Year (2022):
- a) Complete new Crowe’s Nest Cabin (old shelter to be utilized for woodshed). (Les)
 - b) Met Station (atop Old Glory Mtn) interpretive signs outside on historic foundations (Demitri)
 - c) Complete demolition of old Igloo Shelter and build Igloo woodshed.
 - d) Install signage (map, photos, text, etc.) on Main Kiosk (Rob, Kim)

(B) FINANCIAL REPORT for FoRRS 2021 Annual General Meeting Nov. 24th, 2021

FoRRS financial situation is strong.

This is due to a large donation (over \$11,000) from a community individual, and \$30,000 funding for the Accessible Trail Project from RDKB Area B.

Annual 'Operating' costs for snowplowing and maintenance of cabins, signage, trails and parking lots are in the order of \$12,000 annually. By far the largest item is snow plowing by contractor – was \$5,800 during 2021.

Regular revenues to meet this \$12,000 are about \$8,500: \$5,000 from RS&T BC, \$500 from the Kootenay Mountaineering Club and about \$3,000 typically as donations.

The annual shortfall in the order of \$3,500 is met by additional fund-raising.

Further, FoRRS and Area B are discussing an annual operating grant from RDKB Area B.

Larger projects are treated separately with fund-raising by various means as required.

FoRRS is well regarded by funding sources currently which is most helpful.

2021 OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT (NOTE: 10 months Jan to Oct 2021)

Opening Bank Balance: \$ 33,138.46 Closing Bank Balance: \$44,314.62

EXPENDITURES Total: \$ 9,988.39

1) Operations:

Administration \$ 601.82
Cabins \$ 875.83
Snow-plowing \$ 5,796.00
Total: \$ 7,273.65

2) Development

New Crowe's Nest Cabin \$ 270.00
Old Glory Lookout & Met Stn. \$ 451.50
Old Glory Trailhead Kiosk \$ 1,234.24
'Camera' Parking Lot Expansion \$ -
Main Kiosk: Text, Photos & Map \$ 750.00
Total: \$2,714.74

REVENUES Total: \$21,164.55

Donations \$ 11,554.58
Donation Box on site \$ 577.33
Charitable donations through CanadaHelps \$ 2,358.02
Rec Sites & Trails BC \$ 5,000.00
Kootenay Mountaineering Club (2021) \$ 500.00
GST (2020 Expenditures) Refunds \$ 1,174.62

ACCESSIBLE TRAIL PROJECT DURING 2021: (NOTE: 10 months Jan to Oct 2021)

Opening Bank Balance: \$ 6,764.98 Closing Bank Balance: \$ 36,335.62

Expenditures: Install benches \$ 429.36

Revenues: Area B Grant #3 \$ 30,000.00

{FORECAST 2 months during Nov & Dec 2021:

est All Expenditures about '\$6,000' & est All Revenues about '\$6,000'}