

**Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Wednesday Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Rossland Arena Lounge 5:00pm MINUTES**

Present:

Randy Bennett, Les Carter\*, Troy Colautti\*, Kim Deane\*, Larry Doell\*, Gerry Heacock\*, Dimitri Lesniewicz\*, Don List, Laura MacKay\*, Rob Richardson\*, Stewart Spooner\*, Dolf VanNus and Don Vockeroth\*. \*Director

- 1) Low snowpack this winter - in part due to "40 dry days" from Jan 20<sup>th</sup> to Feb 28<sup>th</sup> with near-zero snowfall. Cool weather. Trails hard packed. Rec Site busy.
- 2) Shelters 'maximum occupancy' limits, in effect since last November, may now be removed per Health Officer orders and RS&T BC guidelines.  
Due to lateness of season, these limits will remain posted into this summer.  
This approach in part due to visitors sharing the shelters effectively with the posted limits.  
No issues reported - credit to all involved.
- 3) Plowing: 9 plowings this winter to date. Good job by Simms directed by Rob. Well received.
- 4) Financial situation: Good.
- 5) 2022 Summer program:
  - a) Accessible Trail (Rob); b) Crowe's Nest Shelter (Les); c) Old Igloo demolition (Dan Derby);
  - d) New Main Sign panels (Rob & Kim); e) Glory Met Station foundation outdoor signs (Dimitri).[Also, in progress as time permits: Archives (Roma) Cookie Signs (Larry)]  
Shelter maintenance possible jobs: Igloo, Red Dog, Chimo & some at Mosquito
- 6) First Nations acknowledgement and information in the Rec Site. Discussion
  - a) Old Glory Lookout – Dimitri showed copies of Sinixt interpretive sign (canoe photo & text);
  - b) Statement on New Main Sign;
  - c) Trail Society (KCTS) will have information signs re: the Sinixt name on the new Mxitp Xewith (Cedar) Trail;
  - d) Opportunities in Rec Site and on FoRRS Website for First Nations information.
- 7) FoRRS-owned tools inventory (Rob)  
Power tools: Brush saw, pole pruner, 14" chain saw and protective equipment (with Rob)  
15" folding blade Silky (high quality) hand saw (with Les)
- 8) RS&T BC to be in new Ministry of Land Water & Resource Stewardship. RS&T BC advised Rob this would not change oversight of FoRRS and the Rec Site; even with BC Parks in new ministry.  
{The 10-year old super-ministry, in charge of more than 90% of the province's area, the *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development* is being split into the *Ministry of Forests* and the new *Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship*.}
- 9) Overnight camping in Rec Site.  
Allowed on Crown Lands throughout BC, including our Rec Site for up to 14 days duration.  
Parking lots immediately adjacent to paved Hwy 3B – Highways' jurisdiction - beyond FoRRS control.  
'FoRRS Back Lot' in old Pit: with gate. Gate may need to be closed during summers.  
Some inquiries as to whether winter overnight camping is permitted in 'FoRRS Back Lot'. FoRRS has responded "...we appreciate being asked but FoRRS discourages overnight camping there due to no facilities and risk of overnight activity getting out-of-hand; and Red Resort allows overnight camping in its parking lot at no cost."

- 10) Donations to Museum (Les) - old (rusted) stove from Red Dog & stove from Cookie Jar.  
Deed of Gift from Museum.
- 11) BC Timber Sales: a branch of Gov't that administers wide strips of forests along highways (plus much forest elsewhere). Public consultation opportunity. (Les following up for FoRRS)
- 12) WHY Resources proposing an open-pit mine on Record Ridge (south end).  
(Application Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022).  
During recent years - exploration only – specific drill sites and roads.

This application is for a full-on mining operation – large excavations, waste piles, haul roads, etc..  
An open pit will be created by removing a significant section of Record Ridge; the section removed being attractive meadow with the Seven Summits Trail.

Mine site is on a mix of Crown and private land.

It is in the Rossland Range but not in the Rec Site.

Likely, a review process with public consultation later this year (2022).

Community opposition is probable - based on recreation, environmental, flora & fauna and wildlife (hunting) values.

Discussion at meeting:

- FoRRS Charitable Status is based significantly on our managing a free, public Rec Site. This status could be challenged if FoRRS is judged to be too active in 'advocacy';
- A simple descriptive map, and tours of the site would be helpful;
- BC Mining Act is '100 years' old and designed to enable mining activity;
- Success of this proposal is uncertain. Proponent is a junior mining company. These are often regarded as 'mining the public' aided by tax breaks. They take on high risk ventures that frequently fail, with sites left in poor condition. Unlike major mining companies who are more likely to succeed and do substantial reclamation.

FoRRS stance arising from this meeting:

FoRRS will maintain a watching brief, with the expectation that FoRRS, as a high profile community Group, will be asked to comment.

FoRRS comment would likely be along the lines that long term recreation, ecological and natural terrain values will outweigh the relatively short-term economic benefits from mine operations.

In this matter, FoRRS Board members can act separately from a FoRRS position as individual intervenors.

- 13) Not discussed at meeting:  
Invasive weed information & boot brush unit (by regional 'Invasive Plant Group').  
Removed for winter due to location conflicting with plowing. Will be re-installed in a suitable location in 2022.
- 14) Future of Pit overall – no response to FoRRS request to Highways. FoRRS making periodic queries to Highways.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next meeting: Open