

**Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**  
**5:00pm MINUTES Prestige Hotel Meeting Room**

Present:

Bob Bechaud\*, Les Carter\*, Troy Colautti\*, Kim Deane\*, Dan Derby, Larry Doell\*, Gerry Heacock\*,  
Sheree Sonfield, Stewart Spooner\* and Rob Richardson\* \*Director

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm

1) Alzheimer Junction trail sign:

The director's addressed an issue raised by a member of the public that the name "Alzheimer's" on the Alzheimer Junction trail sign could be offensive. (This issue had also been raised by a Director some time ago). After considering the comments of the person concerned, as well as remarks from a well-respected member of an Alzheimer's organization who works on Alzheimer's awareness and stigma reduction, the Director's passed the following resolution.

Motion: Moved by Rob; seconded by Les.

*"The wording of the Alzheimer's Junction trail sign will remain as is, but with the addition of information at the sign location to explain the history of the name and to promote awareness of the Alzheimer disease and the value of the adjacent Accessible Trail for persons experiencing this and other health conditions."*

Vote called. Motion passed.

2) PayPal Account authorizations – to keep the account in good standing; continuing current practices: Motion. Moved by Sheree; seconded by Kim.:

*"The Friends of the Rossland Range Society (FoRRS) Board authorizes Sheree Sonfield, Rob Richardson and (Kim) Richard D. Deane to act for and on behalf of FoRRS in handling all matters related to FoRRS PayPal account"*

Discussion.

Vote called. Motion passed.

3) Financial:: Kim reported the FoRRS position is strong with a Bank Balance of about \$75,000. The only large project in 2023 is completion of the Accessible Trail Project for about \$8,000. (Rob). During 2023, operating expenditures are forecast to be about \$10,000, offset by similar revenues. Currently, Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC's) are available at about 4% interest if locked in for 1 year. (versus near-zero return on FoRRS chequing account). Van der Ham Accounting advise that no tax will be levied on interest earned by FoRRS as a non-profit society.

Motion: Moved by Les; seconded by Rob

*"Purchase a GIC for \$50,000 for a one-year term (Feb. 2023 to Feb. 2024) in the amount of \$50,000"*

Discussion.

Vote called. Motion passed.

4) FoRRS meeting schedule: Propose 4 meetings per year: Jan. – Apr. – Sept.- Nov. (AGM) Meeting supported this schedule. Always subject to change as dictated by events.

5) 'Down-skiing Spacing Feasibility Study': sub-committee considering a 4 or 5-year program to space some "20" areas; contracting Thinning Crews for two to three weeks per year at a cost about \$25,000 per year. Study getting started. (Demitri, Gerry & Kim)

- 6) Stewart advised Black Jack is seeking funds for coordination/planning of all outdoor recreation assets from Rossland town up to the Rec Site (and possibly beyond).  
No contact with FoRRS to date.
- 7) Parking Lot plowing this winter (Rob): 10 plowings to date (at about \$600 per time). All of last year winter - 10 plowings . Black Jack lots are plowed at same time but all to their account.
- 8) Meeting with RS&T BC (Justin Dexter & Travis Mitchell) Tuesday Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 (Rob, Kim & Les):  
Rob reported:
- a) Cabins - Day-use only – how to enforce? Plan is to install signs (with RS&T BC logo) on each cabin. Very little such signage in Rec Site currently.
  - b) Back Parking Lot – Justin supports FoRRS acting to manage this lot in Highways Pit. FoRRS to put up ‘No Overnight Parking’ signage, and to close the gate during summers.
  - c) ‘FoRRS advised RS&T BC of the Alzheimer’ name question – dealt with in Topic #1 above.
  - d) Is Rec Site boundary expansion possible – yes, it is possible; especially if an expansion is less than 10% in area which puts it within Justin’s control. He emphasized that consultation will be required involving affected parties and that any issues raised will be addressed.  
Rob noted that currently some of our ‘Low Road’ is outside the Rec Site, and there is a very attractive cabin site atop the knoll just west of the ‘Low Road’.
  - e) Are more cabins possible - again yes – in principle.  
RS&T BC would require community consultation to demonstrate support, and seek assurance of FoRRS capability to manage a larger Rec Site.
  - f) ‘Down-skiing Spacing Project’ – Justin advised a project of this scale, while having RS&T BC support, would require Min. of Forests involvement (he gave us a contact name) and likely with external approvals, including First Nations.
  - g) Rec Site & Big Red Cats tenure overlapping along Crowe Ridge – Rob & Kim (with Les as key technical advisor) following up.
  - h) RS&T BC B.C. commented on the ‘Big Picture’ in B.C. regarding major recreation assets throughout B.C. that are important economic generators for communities, and that have been built and are being maintained by volunteer groups.  
Volunteer groups are diminishing in strength everywhere – especially once the ‘building’ stages are mostly completed, and the need is ongoing operation & maintenance..  
This is a very fragile model for such important assets. Gov’t appears to be taking note and to be considering increased funding – including paying for some operating & maintenance costs.  
This may take some years to evolve.
  - i) RS&T BC had kind words for Rob. They presented him with a substantial chainsaw back-pack (added to FoRRS ‘Tools List’).  
Justin & Travis of RS&T BC are clearly very appreciative of what FoRRS volunteers have accomplished, and of FoRRS continuing to operate the Rec Site effectively.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.