

Friends of the Rossland Range BOARD MEETING Thursday June 22nd, 2023
5:00pm MINUTES Prestige Hotel Lobby

Present:

Les Carter*, Kim Deane*, Dan Derby*, Demitri Lesniewicz* & Stewart Spooner* *Director

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm

- 1) Quorum present? Yes – 5 Directors present.
- 2) Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (April 20th, 2023)
Not done - table for action at next Board Meeting.
- 3) FoRR Board 'Governance' & 'Cabin Keepers' - Les.
Les noted 'Governance' was an ongoing Board item with emphasis this fall.
He then shifted to FoRR 'Cabin Keepers' - suggesting ongoing and succession factors are likely a higher priority than the 'Governance' matter. He led a good discussion...role clarity, and more full Board awareness, recognition and appropriate monitoring.
Transitions - when a group steps down – FoRR be pro-active - standing by to find replacements .
This fits with the overall volunteer topic involving Rob at last meeting.
- 4) FoRR 'Operation's Manager' Role:
Les' question: should FoRR take steps to formalize and to reimburse?
Discussion: would a volunteer/honorarium approach be significantly different from FoRR having an employee - with regard to more stringent external 'WorkSafe BC' -type work requirements.
Felt that should a significant incident occur (Castlegar Nordic experience noted), even with an all-volunteer/no reimbursement approach, then outside involvement is almost certain.
Noted that 'fear of 'FoRR having an employee' (triggering many requirements for policies (safety, harassment), selection, oversight, accounting, etc.) may be overstated – other small societies (ie: Black Jack) are functioning with employees.
Meeting felt that – notwithstanding it being likely before long that management and operations of the Rec Site will get beyond what a 100% volunteer approach can handle - no action in this regard is required by FoRR forthwith...but, to be kept in mind (include in the 'Governance' review).
- 5) Big Red Cats (BRC) & Rec Site: the two land tenures overlap, sharing a strip along the north ridge of Mt. Crowe. FoRR (Rob & Les) met with a BRC manager.
BRC does not plan new 'road' development beyond what is in place – to the col on the north ridge of Mt. Crowe from the BRC tenure side. The only BRC activity on the north ridge of Mt. Crowe will be periodic 'boot-packing' groups from the col up the ridge. This is to enable BRC clients to down-ski into the bowl on the southeast side of Mt. Crowe – solely within the BRC tenure.
FoRR advised the ridge is used extensively by ski tourers from the Rec Site side of Mt. Crowe.
It was agreed that ongoing sharing of this strip should be acceptable to both BRC and Rec Site users.
To be communicated to Rec Site users (Website & 'As The Crowe Flies') and to the Kootenay Mountaineering Club... Kim.
- 6) Rec Site Boundary Adjustments in various locations (not the north ridge of Mt. Crowe in (5) above) is to be pursued by Les & Rob having resolved the sharing with BRC in Item (5) above.

- 7) Old Glory: Demitri presented the Old Glory Log Book from August 8, 2018 to October 22, 2022. It is in good condition and has many interesting entries. Kim will ensure it is properly archived. Trailhead signs at Highway have been cleaned up. Comments welcomed.
- 8) Risk Management topic: ongoing.
- 9) Search & Rescue Incident Information (Laura): in progress.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next meeting: Thursday September 28th, 2023 at Prestige Hotel 5:00pm

Recent Items of Interest Not Discussed at Meeting:

a) 'Bike Camp': Overnight group in Pit area on [June 3rd/4th, 2023](#). Approved by RS&T BC. Advertised. FoRR concerns – no bikes on the Accessible Trail (surface gravel for wheelchairs) and use of wilderness pit toilets rather than outhouses. Camp leader was in effective contact with FoRR (Rob). Camp was held and left site better than they found it – collected and piled prior materials scattered about. No issues. All good.

b) Museum:

(i) Helping FoRR set up proper archiving of FoRR historic documents (Roma);

(ii) Plane Crash Site - Museum aware of talk of establishing an official 'BC Heritage Site' (Kiosk mentioned). Ron Dennett, a community member has taken an interest in the site and its history. He has given two talks on this at the Museum. He has contacted FoRR (Rob) and mentioned 'Heritage Site' - 'BC Archaeology Branch' - 'formal notification' - 'ID number' and 'rules'. This could be significant. It is new to FoRR and to RS&T BC (per Rob check with Justin). Rob, a year or two ago contacted the Canada Military (air base in Comox) who are also interested in on-site recognition. FoRR has advised the Museum and Ron that this should be dealt with through RS&T BC (Justin), and FoRR can coordinate this. Justin has asked FoRR (via Rob) to hold until he can better inform himself on this matter within Gov't.

c) BC Gov't announced a \$10million grant (one-time endowment) for provincial non-profit outdoor recreation organizations - to be administered through the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) with its 60 members (not yet including FoRR). FoRR following up.

d) Old Glory Met Station - new interpretive signs have been designed - ready for manufacture. Managed by Demitri who will install them on the remaining Met building foundation.

e) Spacing Project (for down-skiing): In progress. Contractors are available. Many sites have been listed. Working on approvals required. Intend to do an initial one-year trial in two or three representative areas. Then, report to Board and determine if FoRR should commit to a multi-year, costly 'Spacing Program'.

f)) 'Operational Items':

i) Igloo Cabin: reinforce damaged exterior chimney, complete interior finishing & clean-up old shelter materials;

ii) Red Dog Cabin: roof re-build (?), shift woodshed further from cabin (?);

iii) Crowe's Nest Cabin: some damage to lower cladding by wolverine - planning metal sheet covering; felling large trees close to cabin (need qualified Faller);

iv) Trails: - (any work ??). See (h) following).

v) Signage: 'Alzheimer's Junction' information sign manufactured and to be installed (Rob);

vi) Parking: New gate on Driveway into Back Parking Lot. To be situated further in past the Accessible Trail entry; and, hopefully clear of winter plowing (Rob);

vii) FoRR Honda generator in tool inventory - contact Rob if needed;

viii) Mosquito Cabin: report of carpenter ants;

ix) RS&T BC have summer student crew available to be called upon. Rob using them for work on Accessible Trail surface, fire-guarding at Viewpoint and bucking downed trees for firewood.

LET ROB KNOW IF YOU HAVE POSSIBLE WORK FOR THIS CREW

g) Last '5km' stage of New Cedar Trail by Trail Society contractor: good progress. As of June 27th: nearly finished difficult section from near top of Flying Mile to 'Barking Spider Basin'. Then, trail through more moderate terrain along to Camera/Plewman Road. This last stage will complete the major new '18 km' Cedar Trail from Black Jack base to the Flying Mile at Strawberry Pass in the Rec Site.

h) Old Growth Trail – '200 meter' or so, section above creek: erosion (exposed root) problem. Ideas sought.