

Wells Gray Outdoors Club

General Meeting minutes for
Tuesday December 1st, 2015
at the Clearwater Search and Rescue Building,

Present: President: Dave Poole
Vice presidents: Shane Petre
Charlotte Smith
Secretary: Jen Belle
Directors: Anne Baker
Daniel Boudreau
Jean Nelson
Hazel Wadlegger
Member: Bas Delaney
Regrets: Christine Graham

1. Welcome:

Club president, Dave Poole, gave a warm welcome to those present and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Agenda review:

The agenda was quickly reviewed by Dave with two additions made. These items became g) Mountain bike/snowshoe trails and h) Sno-cial.

3. Finances:

Christine was unavailable to attend the meeting, but Hazel had some input on the subject. She has recently deposited \$4,185 into the Club's bank account, plus she has an additional \$2,000 yet to be deposited. A donation was made by Huey Graffunder to the Club in the amount of \$400, as an agreement with Interfor in exchange for a culvert. Thanks to him for choosing the WGOC as his non-profit organization of choice! Hazel has collected \$40 in trail fees to date. It was noted that the trail fee collection box is somewhat overgrown and needs to be cleared of shrubs and whatnot.

There were some invoices that required payment. These invoices were for the chain, screws and bolts, oil, gas and fuel. Hazel made a motion that these invoices be paid, and Jean seconded the motion. Charlotte also had a receipt for the cake purchased for Wes's departure as president.

Insurance renewal is in order for the trailer. Hazel has the renewal notice and will attend to this task.

Bas questioned if the insurance for the PB was based on the depreciated value, or on the original purchase price. We need to check, as we would want to receive its full replacement value. It needs to be determined who has the policy, and then review it for this information. Charlotte inquired whether or not the Club did e-transfers, and was informed that we are not set up for that. She was hoping to receive payments for those enrolled in her upcoming course.

4. New business:

a) Safety review/concerns:

The mouse nest has been thoroughly removed from the warming hut.

A flicker had been found in the woodstove, desiccated, so it was removed. Perhaps a screen could be placed over the top of the chimney to prevent this from happening again.

Saturday December 19th, we will be having a safety/emergency orientation for the Rabbits program. It was decided that knowledge of the snowmobile should not be necessary for this program, as the groups of children involved in the course tend to be relatively close to the warming hut and if anything, it would probably be faster just to retrieve the smaller sled to transport an injured person.

Anne will inquire among her neighbours to see if anyone nearby would be willing to help with the use of a snowmobile should the occasion arise. At least then we could have a list of phone numbers for an emergency. This list will be kept discreetly with the first aid kit.

Naturally, if things are truly dire, we can always call Search and Rescue!

b) Storage building:

Jen would like to put the Birchleg signs in the building, the ones that are placed along the roadside, just to keep Club items in one location, not spread out among people's houses. Some shelving is already in place within the building, and more will be built. We do have leftover lumber from the construction phase.

A sign needs to be made for the door of the storage building with thanks to our sponsors for both the building itself and the solar system to be. The sign should be made of coroplast, held in place with washers and screws and should be about 2 feet by 3 feet. The Community Forest logo should also be included in the sign. Hazel will tend to this task.

We should contact Keith McNeil for a photo opportunity once the sign is in place, and ideally when we have some sort of event going on.

Kevin has a woodstove for the building, but we will have to see how big it is.

The solar system setup will provide enough power to light both the warming hut and the storage building, and will hopefully provide enough power to heat the PB systems as well.

The next steps in acquiring the setup will be to receive the funding from the Community Forest, purchase the required components, and then find a certified knowledgeable electrician to install the system.

It is important that we adhere to the time frame allotted within the grant if we wish to continue receiving financial support from the Community Forest, especially since we would like to apply for more mountain bike trail grant money.

A temporary overhead wire for the solar system could be put in place until an underground wire could be put in.

c) Trail committee:

To date, the Bend, Elevator, Sentinels, Beetlewood and the Raft loops have all been packed and groomed. Some training with new grooming/trail volunteers has occurred and will be ongoing. So far Kevin Henderson, Erik Belle, Darren Coates and Ken Lacour have shown an interest in helping and are willing to learn. Many thanks to you! Head operators will contact these people for training sessions, and hopefully a schedule of sorts will be made. There needs to be good open communication among these operators!

Bob Dhillon was out with the Cat and kindly widened the area in front of the old cabin, so that there will be enough room for about 6 lanes to assist in lessons and training. Stumps and rocks have been cleared for safe skiing. It was wonderfully generous of Mr. Dhillon to donate his time, use of machinery, fuel and expertise.

MacDonald Lowbed donated the low-bed time to transport the equipment. You have our absolute appreciation.

It just goes to show that we live in a generous, thoughtful community that cares about local volunteer organizations. We owe many our thanks for survival! **So, thank you to all!**

There are still some trail signs that need to be assembled and placed out in the appropriate spots. (We should GPS coordinates one day and number the back of the signs accordingly for future ease when repairs need to be done.) We have quite a number of extra trail signs that can be used at any point, plus some "Steep" and "Trails Merge" signs.

The snowshoe symbol signs have been added to the mountain bike trail/hike signposts.

d) Membership:

Hazel informed us that we now have 66 members for the 2015-2016 season! That's a great number for so early. A lot of people are ready to get out there and go skiing, and the snowshoe trails have been utilized, which is great to see.

Hazel will have some trail pass booklets printed up for the Club to sell. These booklets will be available at the Community Centre through Joanna or by contacting the WGOC via e-mail (info@wellsgrayoutdoorsclub.ca). The price for a booklet is \$45, and contains 6 trail passes. We have had a great start to the season, and hopefully this trend will continue.

Jen will make a poster advertising the booklets.

e) Rabbits program:

A meeting for coaches was held at Jean's house on November 24th where it was decided that the program will commence on the **9th of January, at 10:30 a.m.** Classes are being held on Saturdays again this year.

Suzanne will be our RRE communicator, and Jen will make up slips advertising the course which will go into agendas for each student to take home.

We would like to have an early registration date on **Sunday December 13th at 1:00** at the Candle Creek warming hut. We do have some equipment to rent or loan which should help to entice some more participants.

Grace Gormley has sent out an e-mail about a dry land training and would like to know about grooming at the field by RRE. Permission needs to be sought from John McMahon, and we can set the trail. Dave will talk to him about using his field for the grade school's cross country skiing program. It would be nice if we could get some packing done there, if there is enough snow, before Christmastime.

Parents can sign their kids up on the early registration day, by printing a membership form off of the website www.wellsgrayoutdoorsclub.ca, e-mail info@wellsgrayoutdoorsclub.ca or ask Hazel.

f) Grants:

We are waiting until we receive approval for funding before we order any part of the solar system, but it looks to be a go once a meeting occurs between Dave and Richard Christenson from the Community Forest. We should have enough time to receive the grant money, order and assemble the setup, and have it installed before the season is through. (Cross your fingers.) We will need to find an electrician for final hookup.

We may seek other grants to help with a heating system for the Pisten Bully should the solar collector not be adequate enough.

The mountain bike trails are always an item requiring funding, and we should look into applying for a multiple year grant for consistency in trail building.

Next year will be a major one for brushing, so we should be prepared to see about receiving monetary assistance for such an undertaking. We will need to hire a machine.

We need to do a better job of recording volunteer hours in order to help with grant applications from the province and government. This may need to become a part of the monthly agenda, or even better, a monthly e-mail request to members. That would be more inclusive and accurate. A compilation of volunteer hours for the next meeting will need to be done, so those intending on attending, please be prepared with your personal guess of volunteer hours. Thank you!!

g) Sno-cial:

We will need some trail hosts to take people skiing, where there will be options for various trail lengths (short, medium and long, naturally). People will meet back at the warming cabin after their ski to relax and chat with appetizers and gluvine.

Snowshoeing should be made available as well.

The date for this event will be **Sunday January 3rd, 2016**. A challenge will go out to the membership wherein any member that brings a non-member to the Sno-cial event will have their name (the member) entered into a draw for a free entry to the Birchleg (a value of \$20/adult), assuming prices don't change. Hopefully this will encourage the introduction of some new faces.

Dave spoke with Keith about upcoming events and their dates for the newspaper.

We have the **Broads on Boards course December 19th and 20th**, **the upcoming Sno-cial, Jackrabbits January 9th**, and **the Birchleg family fun event on February 6th**.

h) Mountain bike/Snowshoe trails:

Since we have not determined a pricing setup for our multiple trails and their uses, we will offer the snowshoe trails as use by donation for this year.

The portable sign offered from Elaine Gillette needs to be picked up and set up at the parking lot, so that visitors know where to go to access the snowshoe trails, and make people aware that the trails are by donation for this year. A simple map would be helpful as well.

The map up at the warming hut should have the snowshoe trailheads marked in using a fine tipped felt marker.

Dave will search out a digital copy of the trail map to add the snowshoe trails. At least then we could print some copies for in the cabin if people really want.

When we have our brochures printed again, we will need to do much updating.

The general meeting for December 1st, 2016 was concluded at 8:24 p.m.

The next general meeting for the Wells Gray Outdoors Club will be held on January 5th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wells Gray Search and Rescue building.