

Wells Gray Outdoors Club

General meeting minutes for

Tuesday April 7th, 2015

7:00 pm at the Clearwater Search and Rescue Building

Present: President: Wes Bieber
Vice president: Dave Poole
Treasurer: Christine Graham
Secretary: Jen Belle
Directors: Jean Nelson
Shane Petre
Charlotte Smith
Hazel Wadlegger
Guests: Darren Coates
Sabine Cooperman
Lynda MacLennan
Dave Porter

1. Welcome:

Club president Wes Bieber gave a warm welcome, and then he called our spring meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Wes then introduced a newcomer to our meeting, Mr. Dave Porter, who was curious to know what the WGOC is about. Introductions were made around the table and kindly received. Wes informed him that thus far we have primarily been a cross country ski club, but that we now have a management plan approved for mountain biking. We have a licence of occupation at our Candle Creek location for the warming hut, the outhouse and a parking lot, and for the upcoming storage building. The trails are a management agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails. Wes discussed the storage building and referred to the mountain bike trails.

2. Agenda review:

The agenda was quickly reviewed by Wes with no additions made.

3. Financial review:

Christine was able to give a rundown of the club's finances. Overall, the club is doing well financially, but will be requiring money for upcoming initiatives.

Further details may be available upon request.

We have money allocated for the mountain bike trails, and PB maintenance.

Elaine Gillette has granted WGOC \$5,000 to assist in expenses.

Bills were brought forward and attended to.

4. Old business:

a) Action items reviewed:

Action item tasks will be mostly covered in the upcoming topics.

5. New business:

a) Safety review/concerns:

The dead tree hazard directly across from the warming hut in the semi-circle trail has been dealt with, thanks to Mother Nature.

b) Trail committee:

A sign went up stating that the trails are closed, problem areas where runoff occurs were noted, and the batteries for the groomer were changed for new ones.

Canine trails were brought up, and Dave Poole was able to provide an option. There is a possible location off of the road to Raft, the opposite side of Road 9. It would require some trail building (within a cut block there), and there are no guarantees that this road would be accessible at all times. The potential trail could be 2 kilometres. We would have to talk with Community Forest for permission and any trails we build may make timber harvesting easier also. This could be done. A parking lot would be required as well. If Road 9 is not plowed, our regular parking lot would be used and some shared trail may be needed for canines and humans alike, until the canine trails would be reached. Grooming would be easy. A gate may need to be purchased to keep snowmobilers off of the groomed trails where road meets groomed areas. The trail itself would contain various grades. Costs may be about \$8,000 to \$10,000 per kilometre, so this project would cost probably at least \$20,000. Our trail map may also need to be amended to include this new possible trail through various political routes. In the end, this project needs to go to the bottom of our "to do" list. First we need a storage shed, and to get things under way with the mountain bike trails.

c) Mountain bike trails:

Things are moving forward, and the mountain bike committee has touched base once more.

Aaron has looked into insurance and has talked to last year's response to our posted expression of interest, one Robson Energy Services. He estimates it will take him ten days to rough in the 3 kilometer trail and his estimated cost is \$6,720. Darren has stepped forward and agreed to help supervise. We are hoping this company will be still available for our project. Once all the trail has been roughed in we will need to go in and do some hands on work to tidy things up and make the trail what it needs to be.

On May 23rd, Elaine Gillette is hosting a one day workshop, featuring Joel Furnkey, in Valemount teaching some trail building skills. She has asked if our club would be interested if she were to sponsor one here too on May 24th. We will certainly need to learn some new tricks to this trade. We need to find a contract, and someone available to do the work, and arrange a start date. The supervisor needs to be able to focus machine work on the tough areas of the trail.

Wes made a motion to support this initiative, to have Robson Energy Services come down and build 3 kilometres of trail for \$6,720 (\$672/day over 10 days). Jen Belle seconded the motion. All members present were in favour.

Hazel suggested looking into IMBA as a possible source to have people come out and teach various aspects about mountain bike trails.

The general consensus is that more people will willingly volunteer to support the mountain bike trails once there is some physical progress being made.

The Club has received an e-mail granting permission to build these first 3 kilometres from First Nations, but we are awaiting the final report.

Trail grade and sustainability were also discussed. Our trail is going to be a there and back, until further trails can be built to form loops. Passing will need to be done respectfully and carefully. Downhill riders have the right of way.

Wes made a motion that the Wells Gray Outdoors Club supports Darren Coates as a supervisor, so that he may be the point of contact on behalf of the Club with the company that will construct our mountain bike trails. Dave Poole seconded the motion. Those present were in favour.

Thank you to Darren and Aaron for their assistance in this endeavour.

d) Storage Building:

We haven't heard back about price or potential start up dates from our prospective builders as of yet. We need to find someone else if need be, as things need to go forward on this project. WGOOC needs to find someone available for a full contract to pour the pad. That would be ideal, as that would set us up for success in our building project.

At a later date, we will order doors, before the snow flies.

We need to get what we have assembled, so that we can plan on what we need to do next.

Then we can put together a grant application to the Community Forest in the fall. Items to consider may include a wood stove look into a solar system or some other form of energy source, and as mentioned before, a door. Some research needs to be done regarding a solar setup, but it would suit our club quite nicely.

We need a starting date for this project! Shane will talk to Jim to see if he can help us, if not, we'll search elsewhere.

Rebar and drainage need to be incorporated into the poured pad. Some organizing needs to be done! By the start of May, we should have someone lined up.

e) Ski playground info:

Wes and Shane looked for a location for a cross country ski playground and found a decent spot. Still, we need to realize that these playgrounds are very difficult to maintain, as you cannot simply groom them with a machine. However, Christine made a fine discovery as she was skiing in Blue River. She had skied into a gravel pit, and found that it rather resembled a playground of sorts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5th, 2015, at 7pm in the Search and Rescue Building.