

Wells Gray Outdoors Club

General meeting minutes for

Tuesday May 5th, 2015

7:00 pm at the Clearwater Search and Rescue Building

Present: President: Wes Bieber
Vice president: Dave Poole
Secretary: Jen Belle
Directors: Jean Nelson
Shane Petre
Hazel Wadlegger
Members: Aaron Cooperman

1. Welcome:

Club president Wes Bieber gave a warm welcome, and then he called our meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

2. Agenda review:

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

3. Financial review:

A financial review was deemed unnecessary, and so bypassed.

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:

Aaron assured us that he is setting up the teens for success regarding safety. They have a first aid kit that Aaron purchased, as he couldn't access the WGOC first aid kit in the container. Wes requested that Aaron let the club know should any safety concerns crop up.

b) Trail committee:

The PB has been relocated from Dana and Steve's place, to George and Kari's, until our storage building is complete.

c) Mountain bike trails:

It was announced that Elaine Gillette gave a surprise gift of money, \$7,500 from Recreation Sites and Trails BC. An excavator operator was hired to rough in the trail, for a guaranteed 100 hours, plus an experienced hand labourer was hired to fine tune some of the rough trail. The machine contractor hired the labourer for the club, much to our benefit seeing as we can only hire those that hold their own Workers Comp.

There are two teens hired to work on the trails, Cody Hurst and Julian Dewey. They will have the opportunity to learn how to properly groom a bike trail from the hired specialist, and have offered to help build downhill trails as well. When a proper mountain bike trail is built, a machine goes in first and roughs in the trail, then someone

with knowledge of trail building, gets the tread in. The teens will be starting off clearing the brush for him, clearing rock, and cleaning up in general. We have Kurt Dodd to thank for hiring these two for the club, and then they are covered by WCB! He will invoice us appropriately when the time comes. Currently, the two teenagers are being paid minimum wage, and have been guaranteed 45 hours. In the end the cost of this 1.4 km trail will be around \$10,000, so the club is aware of approximate costs. \$10 per metre (and more) is an average cost for proper trail building. Many volunteer hours have been put in by those involved and accommodations/nourishment have been kindly provided when needed. Many hands have helped to get WGOC started in a new adventure!

Aaron showed on a map exactly where the trail is for all present to see. The trail head is close to where the West Raft Loop meets the Bend. It travels through some nice forest, across the West Raft Loop, and eventually enters a young plantation, exiting onto the Raft Loop near the Pass. At this time it is a two way trail. As to trail etiquette, when riders are coming towards each other, the rider going down has the right of way, and the other rider needs to make the trail available. It isn't a loop yet, but there are always the roads that can be utilized. The trail is ranked green in one direction, blue in the other.

If anyone would like to help out on the trail with raking or rock removal, please contact Aaron Cooperman.

The Wells Gray Outdoors Club would like to extend their gratitude to Aaron and Darren for their diligent efforts in coordinating on our behalf, and taking on the responsibilities involved in this project. We thank those that have volunteered their time to help make this possible! You have expanded the opportunities available to those in Clearwater, and to any visitors. Thank you!

The trail committee is hoping to drum up \$10,000. Possible monetary sources include Rec Site Trails BC, TNRD, and the Wells Gray Community Forest.

Although the Club will ask for donations to use the trails, there will be no set fee to use the mountain bike trail. Still, if we can draw people to the community, we are benefitting the place we live, and that should make us all feel warm and fuzzy inside. When we have reached completion, we should make a map available, and publicize the trails so that people become aware of what our town has to offer. The info centre will be a great place to start.

We will need to mark the trail so that in the winter it is still easily visible to those wishing to do some snowshoeing.

Hazel made out a cheque to reimburse Aaron for purchases made for the mountain bike trail.

Should Aaron need to arrange for a work bee, he will post it on Facebook, as he is now an administrator, or forward a message to Jen.

Aaron will round up people for the mountain bike trail construction course which Elaine Gillette has kindly supported. It will be held on May 24th with a maximum of 10 participants.

We need to do a grand opening for the trail, possibly in mid-June (the 14th?), which we can combine with some storage building excitement. We need to get our financial

supporters up to Candle Creek so that they can see firsthand everything that our Club has accomplished with their assistance (TNRD, District of Clearwater, Wells Gray Community Forest Corp., etc.).

d) Storage Building:

Wes has received an estimate from John White and it is comparable to others. A list of questions has been compiled by Wes to ask John regarding what he will do and what the estimate includes. It would be great if he would be willing to donate some hours to help with the actual erection of the building, as he has done similar jobs in the past. His knowledge would be very valuable. The estimate received was for \$17,703, which includes a GST number.

Wes made a motion that the Wells Gray Outdoors Club move forward in contracting this job to John White. He is available the first week in June to commence work. Hazel seconded the motion. Those present were in agreement.

We will receive \$8,000 back from the Community Forest on this investment, thereby completing the original grant award for the storage building. Wes made a motion that the Club install hydronic pipe tubing prior to the foundation being poured. Jean seconded the motion. This allows the slab to be heated with hot water and will cost between \$400 and \$500.

Conduit should be installed as well so that we are well prepared for what the future may have in store for the building's life.

John suggested the Club purchases materials needed, as we are allowed a discount, thereby saving some money.

We need to move all the parts for the storage building up to the construction site at Candle Creek probable via lowbed. The components seem somewhat dirty and may require some pressure washing, probably just the top layer of materials. As we drop off items near the lodge we should try to keep the first parts required for building easily accessible for John. Shane and Dave will attempt this.

e) Other topics:

There was a query about stopwatches that the Club used to have and their possible location, but nobody present knew where they may have been put away.

Just so it is known, Anne Baker has the wooden Birchlegs for next year. Things do tend to get spread out, so it will be nice to have the storage building complete, then everything club related can be put in the same location. I (Jen Belle) confess I have the Birchleg signs for along the roadsides at my house, and the Club computer, along with any paper files I have compiled during my time as secretary.

Wes is in the process of closing the Wilderness Gateway Account which contained \$401, and the money will be destined for the mountain bike trails. We should use it to promote the trail, not go towards a wage, perhaps an activity of some sort.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 2nd, 2015, at 7pm in the Search and Rescue Building.