



Minutes – Executive Meeting of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club

Wednesday June 15, 2016 at the Castlegar Rec Centre

Present: Doug Clark, Laurie Helyer, Graham Jamin, Leon Arishenkoff, Phil Best, Peter Oostlander, Tim Clinton and Peter Jordan.

Regrets: Sandra Fuller, Jocelyn LaFace, Dan Derby, Chris Cowan and Ross Bates

Meeting commenced at 6:35 pm

1) Approval of Agenda – Approval of agenda moved by Leon Arishenkoff and seconded by Phil Best, motion carried.

2) Approval of April 13, 2016 Minutes – moved by Tim Clinton and seconded by Laurie Helyer, motion carried.

3) Review of Old business

- a) Kinnaird Bluffs - we can consider this item as completed. It was suggested that a KMC newsletter be submitted with photo taken of the KMC donation cheque presentation to the TAWKROC president.
- b) Bob McQueen is carving the base for the commemorative plaque. The KMC and the Friends of the Rossland Range are sharing the cost of the plaque evenly.
- c) Route marking and signage for backcountry skiers in the Hummingbird Pass area. The executive is in support of this worthwhile initiative. See comments under the “Conservation Director” heading.

4) New Business

- a) W 5-Mile Creek to Hummingbird Pass Shelter and Trail Marking – See Conservation director report below
- b) Local Management Plans - non-commercial and non-mechanized recreational use of the back country. Minister Thomson of BC Forestry, Lands and Natural Operations responded to a KMC letter in which he supports development of land tenures which preclude commercial and mechanized access. In it he asks the KMC to work with local department representatives (BC recreation Sites & Trails) in this endeavor. Justin Dexter, BC Rec Sites & Trails is the local contact and wants our input and support; it's essentially up to us what we want to commit to.
Action: A small sub-committee of Exec (Graham, Peter J. and Doug) will stay in touch with Justin to keep the conversation going about this subject and report back to Exec. Any commitments by KMC must be approved by Exec.
- c) WH₂O and Darkwoods Agreements –
 - i) WH₂O- Tom Braumandl is the KMC contact with Whitewater. He contacted the resort's manager who reported that he is satisfied with the arrangement with the KMC.
 - ii) Darkwoods – See Trails Access Director's report
- d) email spam: a concern was brought up by a KMC member about the KMC list server sending out an email to all members from a stolen or hacked member email address. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about this issue.

5) Executive Reports

- a) **President** – Doug Clark, Club business is going well. The club's involvement in Local management plans with Justin Dexter could prove to be valuable.
- b) **Vice President** – Sandra Fuller, no report

- c) **Treasurer** – Ross Bates, no report
- d) **Membership** – Jocelyn LaFace,
- e) "...I am continuing to receive new memberships every week. As of today, we have 343 members. There are been a few questions from individuals to supply reminders of the log in details. I also dealt with emails from potential new members requesting membership details. There is not too much happening on the membership side at this time. I will put together a membership update for the upcoming newsletter and am just waiting for the reminder from Tim for articles and I will complete this as part of my action from the last executive meeting. If the executive requires additional information I am back next week and will be responding to emails..."
- f) **Secretary** – Dan Derby, no report
- g) **Social** – Laurie Helyer, The Spring social attendance was 81 people in total. Dave Quin gave an excellent presentation. Lots of good feedback on both the speaker, the food and the new venue. 23 non-members attended who paid \$5 each for a total revenue of \$115.00. The executive thanked Laurie for a job well done. The next social is the traditional Fall slide show. **Action:** Laurie is looking for a different, more upscale venue between Castlegar and Trail.
- h) **Huts** – Graham Jamin,
 - The Huckleberry cabin is fixed; brushing on the trail was done last fall. Still to do at Huckleberry: bridge over Barrett creek needs to be fixed and the cabin roof needs to be re-shingled. Grassy hut: This summer the hut will be outfitted with new bunks, kitchen counter and outhouse.
 - Long term plan for Huts: Graham is fully occupied with hut maintenance and asks that we need to look for someone else to work on the long term vision of the huts, or it could be a steering committee. **Action:** Doug and Graham to pull together a steering committee and its terms of reference.
 - Graham is using his own tools for hut repair and maintenance projects and would like to receive compensation for the wear and tear of these tools. **Action:** He will recommend an amount to charge for wear and tear on his tools; to be presented at the next meeting.
- i) **Newsletter** – Tim Clinton,
 - Next newsletter will be published in the next 6 days. **Action:** Tim is requesting the directors reports as promised from the last meeting (Jocelyn, Graham, Peter J.).
 - Website:**
 - Only two people commented about the disappearance of the "Town Square".
 - We will be hosting the recent updated editions of Earle Whipple's "The Southernmost Selkirks and the Northernmost Purcells of British Columbia: An Alpinist's Guide" and "The Cariboo and Monashee Ranges of British Columbia: An Alpinist's Guide" in the newsletter. Kim Kratky is named as co-author of the Selkirks book. Tim is storing Kim's documentation. Should these be catalogued and moved to the KMC library?
- j) **Mountaineering School** – Peter Oostlander,
 - Introduction to Wilderness navigation - Map and Compass: presented by Doug Clark: 11 member participants.
 - Basic wilderness first Aid course: 0 members;
 - Ice Axe & Crampon use, Movement skills & Rope handling course: 3 members;
 - Crevasse Rescue and Snow & Ice Anchors course: 4 members.
 - The introduction to rock climbing course for the June 18 weekend is full with 6 members and 2 on the wait list. We are in the process of organizing an additional one-day intro rock climbing course for June 26th.
- k) **Conservation** – Peter Jordan, two items:
 - i) Proposal for route marking and signage for backcountry skiers in the Hummingbird Pass area

The aim of this proposal is to improve public safety and reduce the number of incidents of lost skiers in this area. The project would consist of putting directional signs in key locations in the Five Mile Creek and Selous

Creek valleys, and installing a large kiosk-type sign with a map at the gate where the route to Hummingbird Pass starts.

Whitewater ski resort is a partner in this proposal, and is willing to contribute 30% of the cost. The total cost is estimated at about \$7500. After meeting with WH₂O, Nelson Search and Rescue, and Parks representatives, a more-or-less final plan was hatched.

The project was not eligible for funding from CBT's Recreation Infrastructure program, but would be eligible for funding under the CBT Community Initiatives program, which is taking proposals in January. Peter J. will prepare a grant application on behalf of KMC for 70% of the cost for that intake.

ii) BC Parks policy on notification and engagement

BC Parks is seeking input on a "Public notification and engagement policy". This appears to be a rather abstract administrative thing; however, it will affect whether or not groups like us will be able to comment on proposals for development or land use changes in parks.

The draft policy applies to input allowed from the public regarding permits for commercial recreation, "re-search", film shooting, land use changes, etc in parks. The province proposes to post applications on a public web site for only 10 days. Parks would "consider undertaking public consultation ... in exceptional cases", e.g. accommodation facilities.

Peter thinks we should provide some input on the proposed consultation process. Suggestions from Exec included asking for 30 days posting, rather than 10 days (too short for volunteer groups like us); newspaper advertising of significant proposals; everything in the policy is "may" or "consider", not "shall". It seems open to ministerial discretion; it doesn't really commit BC Parks to do any consultation.

On June 20, 2016 Peter submitted the following comments to the government:

While it is good that BC Parks is developing a policy for public notification and engagement, we feel it is too weak, and it makes the application process too easy, with no guaranteed public involvement, for potentially controversial developments such as commercial accommodation, privatized facilities, pipelines, or revisions to park boundaries to accommodate industry.

We suggest that the period for which applications are posted on a web site should be at least 30 days. (10 days is "blink and you miss it" for volunteer groups like us.)

Also we suggest that a public consultation process initiated by BC Parks should be REQUIRED for major developments (not "may" or "consider", which is open to ministerial discretion, and doesn't really commit BC Parks to do anything).

I) Hiking Camp – Leon Arishenkoff,

- Recce of this year's camps scheduled for June 23/24. Camp 1's pre-camp meeting June 25, Camp 2's July 5 and camp 3's June 27. Leon, who is both Chair and Treasurer, will attend all pre-camp meetings to go over purchases, reimbursements and attempt to encourage people to volunteer for vacant positions on the HCC – camp equipment co-ordinator and site selection co-ordinator.
- A number of new stools and 4 full size chairs have been purchased. The plan is to mix them in with existing stools and gather feedback from this year's camps prior to changes for 2017.
- The call for members to suggest changes on Hiking Camp policies and procedures has gathered little input. Members will now be given a user name and password to see if this site will generate more discussion. Exec noted that rather than changes, clarification of requirements for camp entry forms and the definition of 'switching' would be beneficial.

- Total of 8 people have dropped out of camps and all have been replaced by people on waitlists. One couple has opted out for a guaranteed spot for 2017 which leaves one other couple and 3 singles from Group A and one couple from Group B on the remaining waitlist.

Exec thanked Leon for his 'steady hand on the wheel' of Hiking Camp.

m) Trail Access – Chris Cowan,

- a) Darkwoods: Contract to be renewed. Signing authority on our behalf will be the president. Will relay this back to Adrian Leslie of the NCC. The only anticipated change is the adding of some language about caribou. There are GPS collars on a few of the remaining caribou in the South Selkirk herd, and the NCC will check to ensure that they are not near our proposed route in the days prior to the trips. If the NCC sees that we might come in contact with them during a trip, we will be advised immediately, and we will need to cancel the trip.
- b) Proposed trail to Lost Mtn. Peter O & myself had another look at it and found sections of the old trail as well as a very promising route to replace some of the old trail. It's planned to go back, find more of the old trail and have a proposed route to relay to Justin Dexter later in the summer for approval of the proposed route.
- c) Google Shared Spreadsheet for FSR Condition & trailhead access. Quite a few people indicated their appreciation of this. A handful of reports were made to the trails coordinator and quite a few to the facebook group.

n) Trips

- i) Phil Best (winter), no report;
- ii) Peter Oostlander (summer),
 - Our goal was 75 trips on the schedule. We ended up with 91 trips. So far, 37 went and only 3 were cancelled. 448 folks participated (422 members, 26 non-members), which is 58% of last year's record! It looks like we will surpass last year from a participation point of view.
 - New this year is the start of rock climbing activities within our club: 3 events took place at the Kinnaird bluffs with 13 climbers total. The KMC has donated two climbing ropes and some hardware to get this climbing group off the ground (value \$600). **Action:** Peter O to ask Delia to provide a report on Climbing Trips.

6) Motion to adjourn meeting by 8:20 pm, next meeting, September 14, 2016 in Castlegar.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Oostlander for Dan Derby, Secretary, Kootenay Mountaineering Club.