

Cranbrook Community Forest Society Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday April 11th, 2023

Location: College of the Rockies, Room KC205

Meeting Came to order at 7:00 pm

Attendance: 27

1. Election of Chairperson if needed: Joseph Cross, president is the Chairperson.
2. Determination of Quorum: There is a quorum.
3. Introductions: Joseph introduced the current board members.
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Jim Nicol, seconded by Dan Oicle. Carried.
5. Approval of the previous AGM minutes for April 11th, 2022 as amended. Motion to approve the amended AGM minutes made by Dan Oicle, seconded by Lisa Barnes. Carried.
6. Presentation by Emma DeGroot and Megan MacPhee of the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council on species treatment in the CCF. An invasive species inventory was completed last year. eleven different noxious were species found in the CCF, mostly close to residential areas, right of ways, and logged areas. Plan is to reduce or eradicate invasive species in the CCF and to raise awareness.
7. Reports
 - a. President's Report by Joseph Cross
 - Joseph Cross welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Society is responsible to Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), part of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Joe thanked Lisa Cox and Aaron Canuel for the many things they do for the Cranbrook Community Forest (CCF).
 - The Board will keep the gate near the Pilsit trail head permanently closed. It can be opened for events when requested and approved.
 - Met with Ministry of Forests (MOF) plus Wildfire Risk Reduction personnel about future thinning of the forest from the Golf Course to Sylvan Lake. Discussions revolved around retaining most of the big trees for recreation values, reducing the fire hazard and improving forest health. The Board expects to have input before work begins.
 - Met with BC Timber Sales (BCTS) about proposed logging in the northern CCF around the new Padawan trail. Concerns expressed by the Board were similar to the concerns around harvesting in the southern CCF. After some deliberation, BCTS has decided there isn't enough value in logging anything currently.
 - Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting donated time and equipment to improve access to the parking lots along Mount Baker road. Mainroad not only fixed the accesses but reworked the parking lots with donated gravel. RSTBC donated a culvert and funding for gravel.
 - The Board received a BC Gaming Licence, which gives access to more funding.
 - Trail Counters were installed on several entrances to the CCF. The counts give the Board a better understanding of trail use and aid in grant applications.

- The Board continues to work with Ministry of Transportation to establish a new parking lot and access at Car Lake, which will be a much safer entrance to the Padawan and Pod Racer trails. The engineering study is complete. Construction plans are being done now.
- Three pedestrian crossing cattle guards have been installed for easier fence crossings.
- The Cranbrook Community Legacy Fund has been established with the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies. The basic funding requirement has been met. The fund continues to grow.
- Events: The Canadian Orienteering Championships were held in the North CCF last spring. There will be an orienteering Camp held this May. The Cranbrook Gravel Grind was held last September with 107 Riders participating. The Grind donated \$2500 from the proceeds for trail maintenance which is greatly appreciated. Board member Randy Harris took the Environmental Science class (25 students plus two instructors) from the COTR for a walk and talk in the CCF.
- The Board worked hard with the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) on an Environmental Enhancement Grant Application for \$636,000 to thin areas in the N. CCF. There were many letters of support for this project, and it made the final short list. Unfortunately, the MOF insisted that the Board use a special License to cut that has not been used anywhere else in BC. Reluctantly, unable to resolve this problem, the application was withdrawn.
- Homeless camps: CCF board members, volunteers, and Aaron from RSTBC removed several homeless camps from the CCF. Numerous truckloads were removed from one encampment alone. A large clean up of garbage and camps will be organized this spring in the SPCA and Standard Hill Trailer Park area.
- There is a Skills Park committee interested in re-developing the Community Forest landfill dirt piles left by the COTR into a mountain bike skills park/community forest hub. The plans include variable short skills trails including zones focused on young riders. It will also provide parking, event space, and multi-use access to the community forest. Similar projects in other communities have proven to be very popular amongst current riders, tourists, and especially young families. This is still very much in the planning stage.
- Joseph acknowledged all the organizations, companies and individuals that have donated funds, or services to the CCF this year: Recreation Sites & Trails BC, Columbia Basin Trust, Trans Canada Energy, Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting, BC Hydro, RDEK, Wildhorse Cycling Club, Sidekick Stickers, Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies, BC Hydro, Cranbrook Rotary Club, Sunrise Rotary Club, Kootenay Columbia Home Medical, Brian Bedell, Cranbrook Gravel Grind, Kootenay Livestock Association, East Kootenay Invasive Species Council, Cranbrook and Region Tourist Society, and the City of Cranbrook.
- Joe thanked all the volunteers and the CCF board that dedicate their time working to make the community forest a valued asset to the area.

b. Treasurer's Report by Jo Ellen Floer

The following summarizes all account activity held by the Society.

	Project Funds Account	Service Plus 100 Account	Invasive Species Project Account
Opening Balance April 2, 2022	\$136,623.70	\$21,864.31	\$8,995.00
	\$395.01	\$32,256.13	\$21,000.00
Expenses	\$107,065.20	\$23,501.90	\$9,996.00
Closing Balance March 31, 2023	\$29,953.51	\$28,818.54	\$19,999.00

Motion to accept the report was made by Jo Ellen Floer. Seconded by Dan Oicle. Carried.

c. Trails Report by Jim Nicol

- Trail Maintenance: third year with a paid trail crew who do raking, pruning, rebuilding failing features. They also installed the three pedestrian cattle guards. This was funded through Fortis BC, City Of Cranbrook, RDEK, BC Hydro, Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies, Wildhorse Cycling Club and Columbia Basin Trust. The main goal this year is to improve signage.
 - Goal is to complete the Padawan trail in 2023. Overall budget was over \$230k with funding sources from Province of BC, CBT, Private, RDEK, Wildhorse and Fortis BC. To be completed is the installation of an outhouse signage and creation of a safer highway access. Padawan is closed in winter as the area is ungulate winter range. Grand opening is yet to be determined.
 - Signage: Five new kiosk maps have been installed to date with a few more to come. Going to add parking lot name signs. Will also see improvements to Trail entrance signs.
 - Floor discussion: someone is interested packing the trails in the CCF. Packed trails are more accessible. Public also has concerns around the excess amounts of dog poop in the CCF.
8. Elect or appoint Directors and Officers: The following CCFS member let their names stand a one-year term: Sandra Haley and John Young. The following members let their names stand for a two -year term: Dan Oicle, Jim Nicol, Jo Ellen Floer, Kathleen Opal, and Randy Harris. All members were elected to the Board by acclamation. The following board members remain on the board for the second year of their two-year term: Brian Marriott, Lisa Barnes, and Joseph Cross.
9. Announcements: none
10. Open Discussion: Dave Hall will be thanked for snow removal at the parking lots along Mt. Baker Road. A member would like to see a well put in to keep the water levels of the lakes up so there would be a place for dogs to swim. This is a natural environment and not a dog park.
11. Adjournment 8:27