

Larch Hill Nordic Society Annual General Meeting
March 8th, 2011
Fifty members present

1. Welcome - Agenda

2. Vivian Morris moved and Peter Molnar seconded that the minutes of the Jan. 25th 2011 General Meeting be accepted as read: carried

3. Business arising:

- Canine Trail Committee guidelines proposal presented by Hermann Bruns
Herman Bruins moved and Mavis Jackson seconded to accept the proposal as submitted (see below proposal)

After much discussion, where concerns about safety, increased track setting demands, shared trails, and the location of the trails were shared, the motion was carried 34 to 16

- Executive Assistant position - new volunteer position
Duties: oversee contracts and agreements, store minutes and constitution, document tracksetting procedures and records, document maintenance (trail and building) make a list of what is done yearly and make sure someone does them, coordinating projects, oversee volunteer coordination, oversee grant applications and other things as necessary

4. Treasurer's report: attached Roy Decker

- Talk about poor families and enabling their children to ski; families can apply for funding through Kid Sport and can be eligible for up to \$200 depending on need.
- Roy Decker moved and George Zorn seconded: carried

5. Membership report written report from Mavis Jackson

- 874 members: full report attached
- Only two snowshoers memberships so we need to promote this more next year

- Tracksetting - Blaine Carson
Gerry Hunter and Jim Ellis are new tracksetters; Brian Ayotte and Barry Bergh are retiring

7. Programs:

- Jackrabbit: 118 Jackrabbits, fees will go up due to increased loppet fees, season concluded February
- Junior Racers: *Abbi May* 41 racers; supportive families, BC Championships in Kamloops: we won the club championship for the third time, previously 1981 and 1997, since 1981. BC Cup: many of our kids won awards. The Midgets went to the BC Midget championships and we came in 2nd in the province; 12 of 14 came back as medalists with 7 gold medals. Some racers will go to the Junior Nationals in Canmore
- Challenge Group: written report from Lorne Hunter the details of the groups many back country ski trips were shared.

8. Events:

- Ski Swap - *Al Bahen*
\$1475 made. Equipment take -in tightened
- Santa Cruise - Blaine Carson
- Lantern Skis: 16th year and both a success (*George Zorn* and *John Thielman* each coordinated one)
- Fun Race: 130 racers - *John Thielman*
- RKS Loppet:- *Pauline Waelti* Zone 4 new this year with some glitches; broke even
- Pirate Loppet: *Pat Hutchins* huge success; profits put towards buying ski sets for schools
- Fun Day

9. Joint Trails Committee Blaine Carson

- Topics discussed included Trackset Trails, Non-trackset Trails and Snowshoe Trails. The presentation from the Canine Committee was discussed and several suggestions were made as to possible trails, but more information is needed. The grooming to South Canoe was noted as well as the need for more signs to indicate where the multi-use area ends. Greenways is looking at all trails on the South Canoe side. Snowshoe Trails are much improved after the many work parties last Fall, but there is still a conflict in the Pole Camp Way area. There continues to be a desire for more race trails close to the Stadium.

10. Chalet Committee Jim Beckner

- New bathrooms functioning well

11. Safety:

- gate on Woodlot Ramble was locked presents a safety issue so make sure this doesn't happen next year.
- Penttis Shelter has too much snow on its roof

12. Summer Use of the Larch Hills Committee: John Henderson

13. Retention Zones Committee report

- Committee started in the fall of 2009
- Have been looking at how logging could impact on our trails, specifically the upper areas
- Tolko have been cooperative about retaining trees along trails when logging
- Four sessions have been held with summer and winter users of the trails and involving over 50 people
- 2/3 of old forest adjacent trails are not protected from logging
- The next step is to talk to the logging companies to work towards protecting what is important to us

14. Other:

- twitter account for website: Rob will look for a way for multiple users to post reports about conditions.
- Suggestion of looking into a ban on hunting

15. Election of Executive members:

- President: Peter Molnar
- Vice-President
- Secretary: Vivian Morris
- Treasurer: Roy Decker
- Directors: Al Hardy, Abbie May, Al Bahen, John Henderson, Dave Wallensteen

16. Out going president, Jim Beckner, gave a summary of his two year tenure that had people with tears in their eyes

17. Tina Letham motion to Adjourn

Canine Trail Proposal

Presented by the Canine Trail Committee

For approval by the Executive Larch Hills Nordic Society

Purpose:

A canine trail is established to afford both skiers and their dogs the opportunity to exercise together. Such a trail should ideally be machine groomed to support the weight of both skier and dog. Such a trail will provide a more diverse ski experience for some members.

Design:

Loop: The most popular design for a canine trail is a loop trail that ideally has no contact with other ski trails.

Length: The trail will be of a reasonable length.

Terrain: Ideally sloped, low velocity skiing terrain suitable for beginners to intermediates.

Location: The trail would be adjacent but separate from the main ski area with a clearly designated trail head and parking area.

Flow: Depending on the terrain the trail may need to be designated one way for safety reasons.

Signage: At the trail head a donation box would be installed and directional signage and regulations posted.

Agency approvals and agreement

- Larch Hills Nordic Society (Could be on a trial basis)
- Woodlot Licensees
- Shuswap Outdoor Society
- Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

Identified Trail Location:

The Canine Committee in conjunction with the Joint Trail committee will generate a location and trail proposal based on the design principals as identified above.

Construction:

Upon agreement of all parties the trail will be built during the summer season. The trail layout and construction will be agreed upon by the Joint Trail Committee, the Executive of LHNS and the Canine Committee. It will be the responsibility of the Canine Committee to find volunteer labour and funds to support this effort.

Time frame: Preferably in the summer/fall season of 2011, to be ready for the ski season of 2012.

Costs: to be determined. The Canine Committee will look to ways to offset costs and ongoing funding issues in the development and maintenance of this area.

Use and Maintenance

Rules for use

When skiing with your dog: (These are absolutes)

- Dogs are not permitted around the stadium area or chalet.
- Dogs must be on leash when in the parking lot area.
- Dogs are welcome to use the areas designated as the dog trail.

- Dogs may be off leash while on the designated dog trail.
- Please respect other skiers and keep your dog under control at all times.
- Dog owners are responsible to clean up after their pet. Please make sure you have bags with you and you closely monitor your dog in the parking area.
- When on the Canine trail, scoop and remove.
- Maximum of two dogs per skier.

Guidelines for owners (These are expected)

- Be particularly aware of your dog at the parking lot and trail head, where you may encounter skiers without dogs.
- If you choose to use a leash when skiing it cannot be longer than 6 feet to prevent entanglement with other skiers or dogs.
- Owners are fully responsible for their dogs; when any incident with a dog takes place, the Owner will be held responsible.
- **Please clean up or no track setting**

Canine Trail Maintenance.

We propose there will be an ongoing Canine Committee to take care of the issues related to the maintenance and use of the Canine Trail.

- Signage
- Trail clearance
- Providing scoops on the trail for cleaning up after dogs
- Complaints will be dealt with by the Canine Committee.

Canine Committee Attendance:

Spokesperson for the A.G.M. – Hermann Bruns
 Liaison with the Executive – Abbi May (Director)
 Joint Trial Committee – Blaine Carson

Club Members: Allan Bahen
 Sally Beldi
 Maureen Defoe
 Pat Hutchins
 Margaret Kitchen
 Anne Lockington
 Marku Nikmo
 Pauline Welti

