

LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday March 12, 2024

7:30 PM

Rec Centre Room 1

1. **Welcome** -Suzy Beckner. Acknowledged that we are meeting and skiing on the unceded territory of the Secwépemc people. This is the last spring LHNS AGM. In the fall we will plan to hold the next AGM at the chalet after a day of trail clearing and a volunteer lunch. We will no longer have a general meeting in March.
2. **Quorum** – 28
3. **Adopt Agenda** – Additions Kari W motioned to approve, 2nd Bill P.
4. **Minutes of March 14, 2022 Annual General Meeting** Kari W motioned to accept, Kerri M 2nd.
5. **Business arising outstanding issues:** None
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6. **President's Report** – Suzy – Skiing is still fabulous. We had a great season despite unusual weather. Thank you to all the volunteers leading up to and during the ski season.
7. **Treasurer's Report** – Don M. Financial statements for the October 2022 to September 2023 are posted on the website. Don explained the statements. He reports \$116,000 loss. This is mainly due to a few items. Repairs and maintenance cost \$122,000 including \$69,000 repairs to the PB. There was also significant cost for repairs of the sleds and preparations to the new sleds. \$32,000 was paid for repairs to the chalet. Trail construction of the dog trail is included in the statement as a \$20,000 cost but donations did come in to pay for this in October which will be in the next statement.

Repairs and maintenance have been much lower this year. We expect the total to be close to the \$40,000/ year budgeted for equipment repairs. Cash is currently about \$90,000 but there are still some costs expected.

Accounting costs have risen significantly since switching to BDO. There may be a benefit by going to a national firm in terms of grant proposals. They have a specialist in non-profit societies. Dirk suggested asking BDO to sponsor the club and providing a discount in exchange for advertising on the hill. Kari emphasized that we need to coordinate requests from sponsors. There is an issue that we have too much money saved for the tracksetter, preventing us from receiving the gaming grant for programs.

Jan moved to accept the year end financial statements Glenda 2nd. All approved.

8. Club Manager's Report – Karen.

- There were issues with the road this year leading to a petition with 925 signatures so far. When we reach 1000, Greg Kylo will bring the petition to the ministry to request road repairs.
- Trail fees. We now have QR codes which we can use next year to link directly to payments.
- Extended dog trail has been appreciated by skiers.
- Private land is winter only!
- Almost 100 name suggestions for the dog trail. Contest closed on Sunday.
- CCBC and Nordiq Canada. We are fundraising for the PB. \$10,800 has been raised to date. We will get an extra \$2000 from CCBC in addition to that. There may be extra for the number of donations
- 17 safety hosts. 8 reports during the season, including 2 during race weekend, both were actually reinjuries. 2 required transport but none required toboggan. Safety committee is still looking or more hosts.
- Thanks for reporting conditions and down trees to Karen.

9. Registrar's Report – Jan

- 1071 members. More women than men.
- 59 snowshoe only.
- 116 jackrabbits
- 8 explorers.

10. Programs Report –

- Ski Team – Glenn- is at Nationals in Ottawa. There is very low snow there, so the schedule was shortened.
The team had a successful season including BC Champs at Larch Hills and travel to 2 other BC cups, BC winter games and track attack championships. Western's was cancelled due to cold.
- Jackrabbits – Jordan and Alexa. Season ended last Saturday. Fun day was 2 wks early because of worry about the road. Some older kids got skate skiing practices on Thursday evening.
- Masters – Glenn Bond- 2 time slots on Wed night -8 sessions.
- School Program – Karen- Some cancellations due to cold and poor road conditions. 16 schools, 25 teachers, 52 classes. 1168 student visits. 12 missed days due to cancellations. 35 hosts including 141 planned slots, but 85 spots filled. Thank you to the hosts. Sheila Corbett is willing to do a video tutorial about bringing classes to LH to other teachers. She would also do a pro-D day. Megan Weir is the head of the school host program from the school side.

- Women's Tuesday Nights – Abbi and Lizzy had a successful season including a night with free skate rentals from John's. Kari and Kerri did another guided ski night on Thursdays. They did not specify women only but did not get any men.
- Robin is also running a drop-in adult ski group on Wed am 9 am with some coaching followed by a group ski.

11. Land Use and Trail Planning Committee – Craig

The Land Use and Trail Planning Committee met 3 times this past year.

This past year we were involved in coordinating the construction of the new Dog Trails on the private land, updating a number of online and field maps, and ongoing trail maintenance on ungroomed and groomed trails. As well we maintain communication and relationships with government agencies including Ministry of Forests and Rec Sites and Trails as well as adjacent woodlot owners and other stakeholders.

We have members who sit on the Non-winter Advisory committee and meet regularly with the Shuswap Trails Roundtable Group.

Looking forward, we have recently reviewed the 2015 Larch Hills Nordic Strategic Plan and the associated membership questionnaire. There were 6 priority items identified including establishment of a beginner trail, specific race trails, dog trails, lighting project, trail maintenance and backcountry trails. Suffice to say all of those priorities have been completed except for a formal program of trail maintenance. As per our Partnership Agreement with RSTBC we are required to submit a formal report on our ongoing trail maintenance items. We will be discussing this at our next meeting.

We will be looking for input from the membership this fall for moving forward with any new initiatives. We agreed to work on developing the survey questions over the summer and present the proposed survey to the Board in early fall. Ideally the survey would be sent out to members later in the fall.

Finally I would like to thank the committee members for their ongoing valuable work and dedication. Sue Hunt, Debbie Phillips, Clint Smith, Keith Cox, George Zorn, David Millard, and Adrian Bostock.

12. SEC Report – David

Equipment is in good working order. They had a great team including two new members, Kari Wilkinson and Hermann Bruns. They have been grooming the new ginzu trail that is tentatively named Philibuster.

13. Carbon Committee Report – Hermann. They have purchased offsets from the Great Bear Rainforest at the Coast which also has the benefit of supporting First Nations in their efforts to protect their forests. We are contributing \$800-\$900/yr from the club as well as the contributions from members for private vehicle carbon offsets. Only about 1/20 members have been contributing with their membership.

Car counter- 20,000 vehicles drove up last season. Hermann suggested adding that statistic to the request for road repairs. Thanks to Pauline for recording numbers.

Geoff Styles has done some carpool incentives for the ski team in the past.

14. Track Setting Update – George

- Thanks to the volunteers. They are reliable, adaptable and independent. Coordinating with SEC has gone very well this year. Thanks to Rizzi crew and Chuck Wilson- master mechanic. They always come when needed.
- The PB has been reliable this season but was used for less hours this due to the late snow.
- New set drive belts are required for the PB.
- BC champs grooming worked very well to provide grooming for races and regular members.

15. Track Setter Replacement Update – Abbi.

In August Abbi applied for capital gaming grant for the new tracksetter, but we were not chosen. The grant application was good. On Feb 18, Abbi applied for the tourism program grant, requesting \$227,000 that we need to purchase a new PB. She will also apply again for the capital gaming grant in August. We will find out in January. For now we will continue fundraising and using the existing PB. The committee is choosing between a PB and a Bison. We have about \$290,000 saved so far. Bill is keeping on top of new quotes. The last quote was about \$590,000.

16. Announcements:

Hard Day's Night – March 16 – 17, 2024 10am Saturday to 10am Sunday. There is still room to register for this fun new event!

17. Elections – Karen Tanchak and Hermann Bruns

Positions up for election: No new nominations.

- President – Suzy Beckner is letting her name stand
 - Vice President – Abbi May is letting her name stand
 - Secretary – Laura Hepburn is letting her name stand
 - Director – Alan Corbett is letting his name stand
 - Director – Cam Brown is letting his name stand
- All were re-elected by acclimation.

18. Adjournment. 8:52.

LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY

AGM Tuesday Mar 12, 2024

7:30 PM,

Operations Manager Report

- The season presented interesting weather and resulted in some very busy weeks and some quieter weeks. When we compare our # of days ski-able to other close by centres, we seem to have been fortunate.
- The weather played a large part on travel to the hill. The road conditions were less than perfect and even AIM crews were not able to drive up to work on it. When the temperatures dropped, they were successful in making it an easier drive from John's up.
- The petition is currently at 925 and we will be sending that off once we have a minimum of 1,000 signatures.
- Trail fees:
 - Continued options for E-transfer and Credit and Debit Cards.
 - Working on the QR code to be available on the Day Rate Signs in all three entrances. This will take you direct to the square payment screen.
- The Extended Dog Trail premiered this season and by all accounts was a huge success. We have seen many folks both with dogs and without using the new trail on the private land. Again, we thank the landowner for his generous donation of funds to assist in the building of it and the use of his land. A reminder that the use of the private land is for winter use only.
- We received almost 100 name suggestions. Amazingly there were some repeat of names. The executive will work on short listing that to a reasonable number and then the landowner will be involved to chose the new name.
- CCBC and Nordiq Canada shared the opportunity again to raise funds through their annual campaign. We continued to ask for donations toward the PB replacement.
 - Thank you to everyone who has been donating again this year.
 - There has been \$10,825 donated so far and the campaign ends March 31.
 - Tax receipts are available for any donation made through Nordiq Canada.
- Safety Committee:
 - Thank you to the 17 Safety Hosts that agreed to be available to respond to an emergency while skiing and snowshoeing.
 - There were 8 incidents recorded. 2 happened during race weekend. Only 2 required the rescue sled or Kubota to pick them up. 1 happened in the chalet and the others skied down.
 - If anyone is interested in joining this team next year, please contact us early in December 2024.
- Thank you to everyone that volunteered throughout the season
 - Picking up a shovel and helping clear snow in the mornings.
 - Assisting teachers for School Hosts
 - Adding a helping hand to committees to put on events
 - Answering questions for visitors to the hill.
 - Updating snow conditions
 - Reporting downed trees

- All of these things help me out on a daily basis.
- Enjoy the Spring Skiing for as long as it lasts and we will look forward to seeing you next year.

School Ski Program

Totals for season:

Attended:

Schools	16
Teachers	25
Days	17
Classes	52
Student visits	1,168

Cancellations:

Schools	9
Teachers	14
Days	12 Too cold – 4; road conditions – 6; other -2
Classes	28
Student visits	711

Total # of hosts 35

85 slots filled for the 17 days.

56 slots committed to that were cancelled

141 slots assigned