

LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY
General Meeting December 11, 2018
7:10 PM
Seasons Greetings
24 members attending quorum achieved

- ♦ Welcome/Agenda – Agenda accepted Herman Bruns, 2nd Steve Favro
 - ♦ Ed Bouma advised that an open house was held on Dec. 8 to introduce new members to the club. Seventeen new members attended with George Zorn and Blaine Carson as co-presenters. This was a success and may be repeated in January.
 - ♦ Host program starts Dec 22nd for 2 weeks-John Henderson is organizing.
 - ♦ Gullan Hanson – Marcia updated us about Gullan recovering from medical issues and she will attempt to ski the loppet this year.
 - ♦ Minutes of October 10, 2018 General Meeting – accepted by Steve Favro, 2nd Craig McBride
 - ♦ **Treasurer's Report:** See attached report. 930 members registered which is ahead of last year. Dancing with the Stars net \$48,000. Half to Larch Hills. A bookkeeper is now doing month end to help the new treasurer. Allan is stepping down in March and we will be looking for a new treasurer. Workload will be reduced by the bookkeeper. Accepted Herman Bruins 2nd Suzy Beckner
 - ♦ **Chalet Expansion Committee Update & Fundraising-** Suzy Beckner
The chalet is almost complete. An occupancy permit is pending and final inspections are being done by the architect and engineer. The upstairs is locked pending the occupancy report. Rob Nash has been working on venting and plumbing. There is \$29,000 in the chalet expansion fund which will cover the final bills. We are looking for money for a handicapped bathroom and wheelchair ramp to build in the spring. Donor recognition board is getting made. Grand opening Jan 3rd at 2pm. Dancing with the Stars was a huge success. In future it will be held by hospice alone. Thank you to Val H for coming up with Dancing with the Stars!
 - ♦ **Trail report** -submitted by Craig McBride
 1. *We have completed the summer/fall trail work for the year.*
 2. *High-branch pruning is complete*
 3. *Hand brushing has been completed on Bilbo's Bog, Frodo's Bog, Gullan's Gulley and parts of Sentinel and Larch Hills Road.*
 4. *Recommend entering into an agreement with Brad Digness early in 2019 and develop a yearly plan for mechanical brushing. Budget approx.. \$5000*
 5. *Arwen's Dream (new Beginner Trail) construction will start in Spring, 2019. John Thielman will be doing the logging. Recommend sourcing someone from the club or hire someone to manage this construction.*
 6. *Ensure we have \$10-15k budgeted for this work.*
 7. *Private Land proposal has been accepted by owner, however waiting on subdivision approval before proceeding further.*
 8. *Trail maps have all been updated on the website with the new trail names. Snowshoe maps have also been updated.*
 9. *New cell coverage maps have been created. New signs will be up this year.*
 10. *We will discuss updating all signage at the next LUTP meeting.*
 11. *New kiosk has been installed near the Chalet. Rec Sites and Trails will have the signage complete soon.*
 12. *The LUTP has mapped out and flagged a tentative trail which links LH road with Sky Trail. This would be a single track Ginzu-groomed trail. More discussion needed on this concept.*
- Clint is concerned about snowshoe crossings signs on Marmot Lane and Craig will address this. Dogs on a leash are allowed on snowshoe trails. The Canine trail is unchanged but is 1.2 km with the new section.

- ♦ **Rentals** -no report from Caretaker -Pauline was unable to attend tonight . Rentals of the chalet and Cec's cabin brought in \$2300 last year. Pauline keeps half of the proceeds.
- ♦ **Youth Program Reports:**
 - Junior Ski Team-** Abbi – 111 kids, 24 coaches. Practices started at LH last wk and will continue 3x/wk. Weekend camp at Silverstar 2 wk ago and last weekend races at Sovereign. This weekend races at Canmore Noram and PG after Christmas plus Canada winter games trial.
 - Jack Rabbits** – Skill Development Program (SDP) Luke Heckrod is running the program >100kids have registered. Any further registrants will have to coach as all groups are full. First coaching course is available online.
- ♦ **Committee Reports:**
 1. **Membership Update Ed** - 932 registered so far
 2. **Tracksetter Report** submitted by Ed Bouma

We started to seriously pack the little snow we have had with snowmobiles and stair treads last week. We logged over 60 hours and had 6 different people contribute on the extra gang. Many thanks to Jim Nadler and Wayne Buchanan and crew for all their hard work with the snowmobiles. At the end of last week we started using the ginzug groomer to level the trails and set a track to the south hub and Cec's. Thankfully, we received 16 cm. (6 inches) of snow in the past two days after a cold stretch at the end of last week where even packing was not improving conditions. Until now there has not been enough snow for our big machine(PB) to safely groom. We hope to be able to use it after the next snowfall possibly tonight. Last year we did not use our PB until Dec. 20. All our equipment is working well thanks to Dave Brubaker who spent a good portion of the summer working on the PB and snowmobiles. He repaired a hydraulic leak in the PB that was hard to find. Thank you, Dave.

*Stephen Raffel is away but continues to coordinate the tracksetters so we have a full complement of day groomers on standby and Wayne Buchanan is covering for him this week.
Ed Bouma, Liaison Director for Tracksetting.*

3. **Facilities (Cec's, other) Update** – Cec's cabin is being rented.
4. **Safety Committee Report** – Ed Bouma

Our Safety Committee has been busy improving the equipment available in the event of emergencies. We will be positioning the sleds in their usual places, Bilbo's, South Hub and Cec's hopefully later this week. In addition, to the sleds, we will have buckets that will contain a pack with emergency supplies, sleeping bag extra gear to keep patients warm.

The emergency sleds have been modified to pull easier and have been waxed. They are still difficult to pull by one person with an injured patient in the sled so should not be attempted unless there are a number of people to assist. If the patient is immobile and close then rather than taking the backpack take the empty sled with the back pack and use the sled to isolate the patient off the snow and on a blanket. That is only if that person can assist the patient into the sled. Do not spend a lot of time and effort on digging out a sled consider using the back pack until help arrives in the form of a snowmobile or Search and Rescue.

We will be posting a list of the safety host on the new kiosk by the Chalet. We are also in the process of organizing a presentation on back country safety. We will provide more details soon.

We are noticing an increase in evening after dark skiers who are skiing alone. We ask your assistance in the event of a possible search and rescue situation. Please inform family, friends or someone that you are going, out and when you plan to be back. Tell them on which trails you plan to go, and stick to it, to help us reduce the search area. Failing that post your plan on the windshield of your car.

A special thanks to George Zorn, Keith Cox and Laurie Ankeman for working on the safety equipment.

*A reminder to please let me know anytime a skier is injured and rescued from the hill.
Unless there are questions I ask that you move to accept my report.
Ed Bouma, Safety Committee Chair*

Louise Bruns suggested a sign in box. Ed will work on that.
Craig presented the new cell coverage map which has emergency contacts on the back.

Events

- ♦ **Santa Cruise**-Dec. 23, 2018 donations for auction
The executive will be running this. Dave W is organizing the course.
- ♦ **Lantern Ski**-Dec. 28, 2018 at 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Ed is organizing. He needs a few more volunteers for reception and parking. Money shared between the foodbank and club.
- ♦ **Fun Race**-Dec. 30, 2018. John Thielman is organizing. Registration is up on Zone 4. Classic race.
- ♦ **RKS Loppet**-Jan. 19, 2019. Louise Bruns -Starting time changed to 10am. Food will be prepared and served indoors in the new chalet. Louise has been coordinator for five years and is looking for someone to take over. She would have them shadow her this year and assist them next year. Awards for young skiers will be onsite this year at 11am.

Announcements:

- **Metford/South Canoe road closed** until Feb. or March due to logging. No tracksetting down to South Canoe during this time.
 - **Snowshoe day use fees.** Clint Smith requested the following motion “ **The LH Nordic suggested day rate for snowshoeing remain at \$5/day**”. He was not in attendance but his supportive arguments were read by Ed Bouma. Marcia 2nd the motion. The executive discussed this at a recent meeting and agreed that \$8 is a fair increase. John Henderson made a motion to amend the previous motion to “increase snowshoe day rate to \$8”. Allan Bahen 2nd the motion and all approved. Rob van Varseveld made a motion to pass the amended motion, Abbi May 2nd, all approved.
 - **Succession Planning:** The club is in need of a new treasurer and a president. Craig discussed recruiting new volunteers and improve attendance to the meetings and encourage active club participation. Ed suggested including a presentation of something like waxing, or skiing technique to encourage attendance at the meeting to improve attendance.
 - **Thank you** to George Jackson and Rick Southerland for the new Larch Hills sign at the entrance.
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- ♦ Motion for Adjournment 8:25 pm Peter Molnar.
 - ♦ Next Meeting: February 12, 2019 7:00pm