

**LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY**  
General Meeting February 12, 2019  
7:00 PM

Ed leading the meeting. Treasurer Allan Alan Bahen. Secretary Laura Hepburn.

Motion for adoption of agenda Gary Landers. Duncan 2<sup>nd</sup>.20 in attendance.

- ♦ Welcome/Agenda – additions to the Agenda
- ♦ Minutes of December 11, 2018 General Meeting. Motion to adopt George Jackson.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Mulnar
- ♦ Business Arising: None
- ♦ New Business:
- ♦ Treasurer's Report: See report. Fees up \$26,000. Trail fees from the box are also up from last year. Tracksetter replacement – Alan recommends putting \$15,000 into the fund. Capital projects- beginner trail and fees for brushing. We have enough to fund these at this point.

\$2231 donated

Alan moves that we put in \$15000 from the general account to the tracksetter replacement fund. Ed 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**Executive Assistant Review Committee recommendation –**

**Job Description – Club Manager/Executive Assistant,  
2018/2019**

- Respond to member and public inquiries and refer to the appropriate committee or director. Maintain a record of correspondence.
- Apply for grants, file annual reports and assist in budget preparations.
- Maintain accurate member contact lists and their assignments
- Seek out and develop grant funding proposals
- Liaise with Community newspapers and other online and print media.
- As directed by the president or designate: schedule a venue and attend Membership General Meetings. Notify members through the Larch hills E-news of upcoming meetings. Prepare an agenda in consultation with the president or designate.

- Coordinate chalet rental bookings, opening and closing, and cleaning of the chalet.
- Check LH mailbox and either respond to or distribute mail to appropriate committee and/or executive members.
- Perform general Admin duties
- Perform custodial duties
- Respond to visitor enquiries – phone, email, website
- Maintain an up to date trail report
- Manage and update the club website
- Send out E-notes
- Purchase supplies for cleaning etc.
- Perform minor maintenance and repairs of lodge; including coordinating parking lot clearing and sanding
- Provide board support (attend monthly board meetings, assist with planning, assist committees)

**This will be a 5 month salaried position, based on 30 hours per week starting in early November. \$20/hour at 30 hours/week = approx. \$12,000 for 5 months.**

Peter moves to set up a hiring committee. Gary Landers 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Allan recommended not having a performance bonus as this can be a red flag. Addendum max \$15,000 for maximum payment. Discussed option between contract and employee. The hiring committee will determine this. Rob suggests changing wording to “coordinating repairs”. Ron proposed an amendment to cap pay at \$15,000. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

#### **Chalet Expansion Committee Update.**

Suzy Beckner- We have an occupancy permit for the chalet. The well needs to be registered and we need a water license. This should have been done previously but was overlooked. Suzy is in the process of completing this. We may have to do water treatment which will incur cost. There can be a long-term plan. Suzy is working on getting an actual address for the chalet. Also, we are installing a dumbwaiter for the upstairs to the loft. The handicapped washroom will be built in the next while. We have funds for this. Final finishing will be completed in the spring including trophies and plaques.

#### **Land Use & Trail Planning Committee Update -Craig**

Craig would like to thank the members - George Zorn, Debbie Phillips, Keith Cox, Sue Hunt, Clint Smith, Brian May and Dave Wallenstein for their excellent work on the committee.

Neighbor land use plan – The committee is communicating with stakeholders such as CSRD, Tolko and Woodlot owners to make sure there are not important issues that will affect trail planning.

Shuswap round table committee- They meet together quarterly- equestrian, trail alliance, ATV use etc.

Beginner trail –building will be starting early in the spring.

New Maps will be put on the old kiosk.

Craig suggested Craig James for the executive assistant position. He has a log splitter.

South canoe ski out -logging is finished. Duncan will email Kurt Olsen to see if it will be usable this season.

George Jackson is looking into salvage logging on some of the trails.

Brushing budget was discussed. \$100/hour for brushing. \$3000-\$5000 total expected this season.

Keith and Debbie are looking into a fire smart program to protect the chalet in case of forest fires. They will look at clearing dead wood in the area and some other minor clean-up to reduce fire fuel in the area.

#### **Rentals – report from Caretaker**

Pauline- mostly schools have been renting the chalet. She is getting separate cheques for security deposit and tearing them up if it is cleaned. Cec's rate is now \$10/person/day

There was discussion about use of the chalet in the evenings when there is a group rental. We decided that from 9pm – 7am public should not use the chalet if it is rented to a group.

#### **Youth Program Reports: Junior Ski Team – Abbi May**

2 BC cups were held in January. Penticton and Revelstoke. About 70 races attended each of those.

Western Canadian's was held in Kelowna this past weekend – About 40 kids raced.

8 were on the podium

Development group went to Invermere to ski in multiple areas this past weekend.

They reported that it was cold but fun!

Midget Championships will be held at Sovereign this coming weekend

BC championships will be held at Larch Hills March 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers including course marshals are needed -contact Jana Elliot if you are available.

Nationals will be in Gatineau in March-19 kids are signed up to go.

Natalie Wilkie is going to Prince George for paranordic world championships this weekend for skiing and biathlon. She will be racing in Japan March.

**Jack Rabbits – Skill Development Program (SDP) -Luke Heckrod not present.**

#### **Membership Update – Jan Naylor**

- ◆ 1093 members so far this year (1069 last year)
- ◆ Jackrabbits 115 (138 last year)
- ◆ Ski team 113 (111 last year)
- ◆ Explorers 8 (12 last year)
- ◆ family 270 (285 last year)
- ◆ individual 203 (177 last year)

- ◆ snowshoe families 8 (4 last year)
- ◆ snowshoe individual 12 (7 individual)
- ◆ youth/student 12
- ◆ Jan's job was easier without infrequent use memberships this year.

Jumpstart will pay for kids who are unable to pay. Up to \$200 which would include ski team or explorer/ jackrabbit fees. Parents have to apply at Canadian Tire. If you donate to that program the money stays local.

### **Track Setting Equipment/Maintenance work Update**

Tracksetter Report- Ed Bouma

This has been another great but challenging year for snow conditions and tracksetting. We have not received very much snow so we are very glad that our early season snow packing has paid off big time. We have managed with very little snow which seems to fall in 2-8cm amounts once or twice a week. We have only had a few days with limited grooming due to equipment issues or cold low use days.

Since my last report in December there has been a significant development with regards to personnel. As most of you will know we lost the services of Stephen Raffel, our tracksetting coordinator, as a result of a fractured neck he incurred at home. We were fortunate to have Wayne Buchanan as the backup coordinator and I would like to express our appreciation to him and all the tracksetting team for stepping up in trying circumstances. We are looking to appoint a new tracksetting coordinator for next season hopefully from our present or past volunteer PB tracksetters. This coordinator would look after the day to day grooming operations, fuel delivery and training.

In early January I submitted our annual tracksetter log and volunteer hour summary for 2018 to Duncan for the annual report. Worthy of note in this report is that the tracksetters and support personnel accounted for 2034 hrs. in volunteer time contribution. We operated the Pisten Bulley for 367hrs. This compares to 374 machine hours in 2017. As of this week we have about 4660 hrs. on our PB. The PB has received a new clutch in the secondary cooling fan and we did preventative maintenance (\$3,625) at the same time so the only other issue remaining, that we know of, is the replacement of several new track belts over the summer. The other good news is that we have found a PB specialist who has a mobile unit with diagnostic equipment in Winfield who can help Dave with the PB. He advises that our PB is in good shape and much better than the new PB400's which are having engine issues due to the pollution control devices. He believes that our PB200 has many good operating hours left as he work on machines like ours with well over 15,000hrs on them.

Our snowmobiles have been used extensively for event preparation, Ginzu grooming and infrastructure and trail maintenance. Our 2015 Scandic has been temperamental but it looks as if we solved that problem by repairing a leaking oil sensor. We also found that the 2009, which is our work horse machine can be tipped to the right but not the left without spilling oil in the air intake. This presents a bit of a challenge in the early season grooming. We are exploring other machine options which is not easy as most of the newer snowmobiles are

made for speed and too light for our purposes. We will canvass other ski areas to see what they are using, including tracked vehicles, and how well that works for them.

On January 31, 2019 we were fortunate to have one of Canada's leading tracksetters Dirk Van Wijk do a presentation for all the tracksetters. Dirk was Chief of Course of the XC ski course at Callaghan Valley for the 2010 Olympics and a senior track-setter in Pyeongchang just last year. When he is not at the Olympics, he is out grooming the trails at his club of Nakkertok (Canada's largest XC ski club) in Ontario. We found it informative and it also gave us an opportunity to share experiences. We wish to thank Herman and Louise Bruns for arranging him to come to our club and put on lunch as well.

Finally, our mechanic, Dave Brubaker, is willing to train someone to help with machine maintenance and with a view toward succession. Let us know if you know of someone who is mechanically inclined and may be interested.

Ed Bouma, Liaison Director for Tracksetting.

**Facilities-** Ed Bouma

Pauline is burning 4 wheelbarrows every 6-8 hours when it is cold. We will need to fill the whole wood shed for the season.

## LHNS SAFETY COMMITTEE Report-Ed Bouma

February 12, 2019

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

The safety buckets are in place at the Sentinel/Lakeview intersection and Summit trail. Unfortunately the summit trail bucket disappeared so we used the Far East bucket as a replacement. We have posted a list of the safety host on the new kiosk by the Chalet.

We held a two Survive Outside Presentations on January 12 which were well attended. Salmon Arm Search and Rescue member presented provincial search and rescue stats (1600+ annually more than the rest of Canada combined), trip planning advise, suitable gear and equipment for winter activities and emergencies. George Zorn reviewed the LHNS Safety Hosts program and explained how you can be prepared to help an injured skier or snowshoer and demonstrate how to use a Rescue Toboggan, SKED and on-hill emergency response supplies.

We had one report submitted to CCBC regarding a broken collarbone injury during the RKS Loppett on January 19, 2019. This happened on Baby Moonwalk. Brad Calkins(Chief of Race) talked to him and he was super nice about it and complemented everyone involved in the fast response, blankets, etc. He did the same thing nine years ago, and he said back then it took 15 mins for someone to come, they had no blankets, no ambulance, etc so he said we had obviously been working hard on improving our response and also had improved the track where he fell since the first time.

We had an tragic incident of a fatal heart attack by a snowshoer on the interpretative trail on January 27, 2019. Many thanks to Pauline Hickson, Mike Dobbin and John Thielman for responding. It was hard work for them to bring in a sled and deliver him to the ambulance. As a result of this incident Gary Wilkenson has offered his snowmobile and experience in any future non groomed trail emergency as our snowmobiles are not equipped for this purpose.

A special thanks to George Zorn, Keith Cox and Laurie Ankeman for working on the safety equipment. We are looking for a new Chairperson for the Safety Committee so please let us know if you can help.

A reminder to please let me know anytime a skier is injured and rescued from the hill.

### **Trails Update**

Clint Smith -Snowshoe trails- snow is improved. He has not had complaints about increase in prices.

Clint mentioned the hazard with the new barb wire fence on Whoopie.

Duncan mentioned the improvement with the high branch pruning and snow bombs.

### **Events:**

- ◆ Santa Cruise-Dec. 23, 2018. The event was a great success with the race and auction and funds raised for the food bank.
- ◆ Lantern Ski-Dec. 28, 2018. Approximately 500 attended including a large # of snowshoers. Wear reflective clothing. Raised about \$1200 also for the food bank.
- ◆ Fun Race-Dec. 30, 2018 went well.
- ◆ RKS Loppet-Jan. 19, 2019 report Louise Bruns  
Numbers were up with race team in attendance this year. It was a beautiful warm day but difficult waxing and grooming conditions. Start time increased to 10 am awards for children were fully attended at the hill  
Thanks to Wayne Buchanan for taking chief of course position last minute.  
She also thanked  
Gerald Regier -stadium set up  
Dave Danforth and daybreak rotary -chalet

AJ decker – Aid stations.

Diane Cadden -Appy hour and Pizza

Rob Nash -Registrar.

She is still searching for a new coordinator and will stay on as assistant in the first year.

Sara and Adam -video.

Marcia would like to add that we have raised \$415,000 for heart and stroke foundation over the years

Pirate loppet- was hugely successful.

- **Announcements:** AGM Elections March 5, 2019 7:00 pm
  - Duncan Moore Herman Bruns and Dave W are the nomination committee. We need 4 directors, treasurer and president. Some who's terms are ending will let their names stand. There has been some interest in treasurer. Ed will let his name stand as president if there is a VP who will take over in 1 year.
  - Duncan mentioned the Lewiston Ultra which will be held again in September and will likely use the chalet.
- ◆ Motion for Adjournment- Peter Mulnar
  - ◆ Next Meeting: AGM