

LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY

General Meeting via Zoom – Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30pm

Introductions/Welcome: Suzy Beckner president

- **Attendees:** 21
- **Adopt Agenda** – Additions. Motion Don Miller, 2nd Peter Molnar
- **Minutes of General Meeting** – Oct 13, 2020. Approved. Ramp destroyed.

Motion to adopt - David Millard, 2nd Peter Molnar

New Business arising/outstanding issues: None.

Reports:

1. **President's Report** – Suzy Beckner - thanked all the volunteers for all the work done to run the hill. She acknowledged Karen for returning and all her work. She thanked George for getting the Tracksetting organized so early in the season.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Don Miller -
 - Registration:
 - o Estimated to be slightly over \$ 80,000 at November 30 (\$ 68,000 in 2019)
 - o Non-member trail fees for this year are over \$ 1,000 to November 30. There were no non-member trail fees in 2019-2020.
 - o Extensive use of e-transfer system by members; seems to be functioning well with no problems from accounting point of view and have heard no issues from Jan.
 - e-transfers for trail fees
 - o have implemented e-transfer for trail fees using Karen's e-mail account manager@skilarchhills.ca
 - Operations:
 - o Limited expenditures in Oct-Nov
 - Snowmobile repairs - \$ 1,977.
 - Instructor course for Jackrabbit instructors - \$ 1,100 (less \$ 500 reimbursement from "outside" attendees);
 - Additional donation of \$ 1,000 to the Lighting project.
 - Insurance:
 - o The property insurance premiums covering the society assets are due December
 - 11. The quoted premiums are approximately \$ 500 greater than those for the year just past and total about \$ 9,500. In my discussions with the agent, she noted that there is a general

across the board increase in insurance premiums in all areas of insurance and I suppose that an increase of five and a half percent is acceptable.

- Bank Balances: (estimated to November 30, 2020) o Operating funds (unrestricted)
- o Lighting project (restricted)
- o Tracksetter replacement (restricted)

\$ 151,718 \$ 141,024 \$ 126,172

3. **Manager's Report** – Karen Tanchak started Nov 2nd and set up the Covid-19 plan early due to the early snowfall. -see report

4. **Membership Update** – Jan Naylor-Registrar's Report

Our total number of members as of Dec. 6, 2020 is 1198. This is a record for the club.

Of these, 52 are snowshoe only.

117 Jackrabbits
97 Junior ski team
10 Explorers

The membership fee will increase at midnight on Dec. 8. Members have been much better at registering early this year, perhaps because of the early snow. A reminder that you should have paid your membership before you start skiing at Larch Hills.

Using e-transfer has been very efficient for me; over 270 members have taken advantage of this method.

5. **Youth Programs Report** – Race Team – Abbi May

LH Ski Team report

Happy to be on snow for training starting mid-November! Really appreciate the early packing and grooming efforts of the grooming team!

100 skiers on team.

Following provincial health guidelines.

- Strength training now happening on Zoom
- Groups have different entry/exit points to the stadium to avoid congestion at top of stairs.
- Have sub-divided age groups into smaller groups
- Groups have different meeting locations around the stadium so we are well spread out
- Athletes are changing in their vehicles on the way up to practices from school
- Not using chalet other than BRs
- Keeping attendance records in case contact tracing needed

Interprovincial races have been cancelled including Nationals 2021. Provincial races unlikely to happen but remain on the CCBC schedule.

Feel we are providing a low-risk activity that is important for kids physical and mental well-being. Since we are practising in many smaller groups, be prepared to find us all over the trails on Saturday mornings.

-Jackrabbits – Suzy Beckner – Luke Heckrodt is running the program. He is trying to run a training program for coaches and they hope to run jackrabbits starting in early January. They may run the program at an alternate time such as Saturday afternoon so they won't be at the hill at the same time as ski team. Refunds will be offered for those who can't make the alternate time. They will not be able to use the chalet for hot chocolate.

-Ski School Program – Suzy Beckner. Antje Breugem, George Zorn and Megan Weir are coordinating. It is now booked on Zone 4. Programs will start January 11th and up to 2 classes from one school daily will be allowed. Ski host volunteers will be participating and will be required to wear masks. Face shields are available from Karen in the office for hosts.

6. **Trail Lighting Committee Report** -Craig - section 57 approval for phase 1 & 2 were complete this week. Construction will be planned for the spring. Fundraising continues. Archeologic study and land use study are available to read on the website.

7. **Carbon Neutral Committee Presentation**– Brad Calkins presented. See info on the Larch Hills website for more details.

The mission is to identify and quantify sources of emissions and work towards carbon neutrality.

Driving to and from the hill is estimated at 84% of the emissions. Tracksetting 11%. Maintenance 4%. Other sources 1% including gasoline, chalet electricity, lighting, machine shop.

Recommendations include suggested donation to the club to offset driving impact. They would like to install a car counter. Car-pooling would have been the main recommendation (except for this year due to covid). To offset the carbon cost (excepting driving to and from Larch Hills) it would be <\$1 /member.

Future ideas include education, increased carpooling, shuttles/ bussing for events, bus ski team to races, electric power for vehicles/ tools, sponsor tree in community, website page.

They will also make a sign to put up at the Chalet and put something on the e-news. They suggested a donation box for carbon emissions offsetting. Estimate is about \$0.30/trip. We will consider adding an option to the registration next year to donate for offsetting carbon emissions.

Overall cost would be about \$600/yr to offset our omissions. Herman requested support from the club members toward donating this amount toward carbon offset projects so that we will be a carbon neutral organization. There was support in general for donation to local carbon offset projects. The executive will discuss further.

8. **Land Use and Trail Planning Report** – Craig Mc Bride –
Land Use and Trail Planning Committee Report

Dec. 1, 2020

- Committee met on November 16, 2020

- Updates were made and approved to the 2018 All Members Trail Map. Brian May has sent the requested changes to Suzanne Fordyce at CSRD for updating. Rec Sites and Trails will use the updated map to replace the 26 coroplast “You are Here Signs”
 - We recommend that Tom’s Trail and Townview not be Ginzu groomed this year. There are new huge waterbars on Townview making it impassible for snowmobiles.
 - George Z. and I met with a consultant working on the RDNO Area ‘F’ Master Trails and Park Plan. We emphasized the recreational opportunities of Larch Hills and would like more support from RDNO in the future.
 - The committee would like to recommend to the infrastructure committee that a new outhouse and possibly a bench and shelter be installed at the junction of Sentinel and Lakeview. (Later met with Suzy and RSTBC who were in favor and offered to fund and build)
- Abbi suggested some benches on the snowshoe trails. She suggested benches made by the shop classes for the snowshoers.

9. Track Setting Report – George Jackson

Thanks for mother nature cooperating, the skiing conditions at L/H have been good for last couple weeks.

PB with packer attachment was out three times in November levelling and packing. 4 by 4 situation on L/H ski trails was dealt with in timely manner by the grooming crew, first busy Saturday on the hill was not a rut fest. Wayne Buchanan has been busy grooming and organising the extra gang as Jim Nadler is staying close to home with broken upper femur. Extra gang crew have been out numerous times with skidoo /Kubota packing and setting skate lanes and classic tracks. PB will be back out when the compacted “base” snow depth increases another 4” to 6” in the stadium.

We are actively looking for new members to help out the extra gang with grooming. To reduce congestion around the chalet with covid they will be clearing from the bottom of the parking lot by the wood she to the trails as an alternate access point. Sand can be stored near the bunker and Chuck Connor will build a sandbox so that people can spread sand as needed around the parking lot. The sand truck will be ordered as needed as well.

One-way trails - George thinks that Baby Moonwalk is a safe one-way trail. Stiggs may also be safe for two-way skiing. Some members don’t feel safe with two way traffic. The executive will ski it both ways then discuss at the next meeting.

10. Safety committee -David Millard

Thanks for endorsing the funding for first aid courses for the safety hosts. Previously we have paid half the costs but now the club will pay the full cost. The cost is \$120/course and each host needs 2 courses every 3 years.

The ‘97 snowmobile and rescue trailer are positioned at the chalet.

Safety shields are in the bunker and the office for volunteers who would like to use them in addition to masks when working close to others. They can be reused by the same person

Sign in board is in place for safety hosts and phone number is in use.

There are four new safety hosts Jim, Jessica, Christina and Dirk.
Radios are a work in progress.

11. Communication/ Covid-19 Report – Suzy Beckner

Please direct any concerns or ideas to Karen first. She will reply or bring these to the executive ASAP. The executive will address any issues and then bring them to the club as needed.

Covid-19 plan- This will be fluid depending on the public health guidelines. A new rule states that adults can't ski in groups >3. Children are still allowed to ski in bigger cohorts. Karen will recheck to see if the limit of 3 adults skiing together applies to casual groups or just organized programs.

Events: No events currently scheduled

Additions

1. John Henderson would like someone to take over organizing the trail host program for the holiday season as he is unable to do so this year. Please let Karen know if you are interested.
3. The snowmobile filming was cancelled.

Motion for Adjournment: 9pm

Next General Meeting – Tues, Feb 9, 2021 Location TBD