

WOLVERINE NORDIC AND MOUNTAIN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 October 2008, Tumbler Ridge Public Library

In attendance:

Members: Patsy Antle, Fred Booker (chair), Shawna Booker, Michele Burton, Marsha Dufresne, Sarah Gamble, Charles Helm, Linda Helm, Donna Legault, Peter Mandeville, Eric Mueller, Bob Norman, Birgit Sharman, Kevin Sharman, Craig Waters, Crys White, Larry White (17).

Guests: Tim Bennett (Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts), Doreen Younge (District of Tumbler Ridge).

Apologies: Mike Sidwell.

The meeting was called to order at 19h10.

The agenda was approved and the 2007 AGM minutes reviewed.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2007 AGM (Crys White, Bob Norman). Carried.

The Minutes of the Special General Meeting of May 2008 were reviewed.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 2008 Special General Meeting (Bob Norman, Shawna Booker). Carried.

REPORTS

1) President's Report: Fred Booker thanked the Executive and core group of volunteers who had worked so hard over the past year and provided him with support. He reflected on another successful year for WNMS, while also touching on issues such as alpine pollution that still needed work. He looked forward to the completion of the Bergeron Falls Circular Trail in 2009. He spoke of the Emperor's Challenge as a particularly successful event that took a lot of hard work. He concluded by hoping that more and more members would become increasingly involved with the club. He indicated that after two years' service as President, he would be standing down from this position.

2) Treasurer's Report: Patsy Antle read out the financial statements for the year (on file). The healthy balance is the result of lots of hard work fundraising and staging events, especially the Emperor's Challenge.

There was discussion about insurance, whether all members should have a portion of their membership fee sent to Cross Country BC for insurance, or whether this should only apply to those using the ski trails, as this insurance only covers cross country skiing activities and events. Birgit suggested that next year the membership form require clarification on whether the member intended to use the ski trails or the hiking trails or both.

Tim Bennett provided clarification on insurance for volunteers working on the hiking trails through the partnership agreement he was asking WNMS to sign. WNMS already has Directors' Insurance. The third type of necessary insurance would be Liability Insurance (in case someone using the trails alleges an injury) as it appears that this is not covered through the WNMS partnership with District of Tumbler Ridge as had previously been thought. Tim provided information on typical insurance packages (Oasis and Capri) that clubs like WNMS use, which appear to be cheaper than the quote Charles Helm had received on

approaching the local Barton's branch. This issue will be pursued in coming months and the membership kept informed.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report (Birgit Sharman, Craig Waters). Carried.

3) Lost Haven Cabin and Ski Trails: Larry White reported that there has been little major vandalism to the Cabin this year. He hoped in the long term to be able to expand tracksetting to the trails beyond the Cabin. He also suggested that in 2009 a grader and blade be used to slightly widen the trails to make them easier to trackset for two lanes. Charles Helm pointed out how District staff had done a much appreciated job helping to mow and clear the trails for the cross country running races.

5) Hiking Trail Report: Report from Charles Helm on file. Michele Burton spoke on options for funding for making the Bullmoose Marshes trails disabled-accessible, a project which is being pursued in co-operation with the Junior Rangers. Fred Booker thanked Marsha Dufresne for her work with the Junior Rangers.

6) Coaching Report: Birgit Sharman and Linda Helm reviewed track and field, cross country running, and cross country skiing coaching activities for the past year. Five Tumbler Ridge athletes qualified for the Provincial Cross Country Championships, five for Track and Field provincials, and five for the BC Summer Games.

7) Liaison with Industry & Government: Charles Helm and Fred Booker reported on productive contact with Rob Bressette of BC parks, Tim Bennett, MLA Blair Lekstrom (who is helping tackle the alpine pollution issue) and mining, oil and gas and forestry industries.

8) By-law Enforcement: Steve Marshall had been invited but was unable to attend. WNMS concerns are to be brought to his attention, in particular with regard to Lost Haven Cabin and the ski trails. The dismal enforcement situation in the 2007-08 ski season was discussed, which led to frequent damage to trackset trails despite adequate signage. Decreases in vandalism at Flatbed Falls were noted by Kevin Sharman, following a letter of complaint from WNMS. The lack of information for visitors on ATV trails was noted.

9) Major Purchases: None over \$1000 during the last year.

10) Insurance: Already covered under Treasurer's Report.

11) Works of Art: Charles Helm suggested acquiring original art works of trail destinations as a partnership with the TRMF and possibly the Arts Council, to become a permanent exhibit in a site with adequate security such as the new museum. He mentioned two exquisite works currently on exhibition by the Peace Watercolour Society. If purchased, these would become assets of the club. Discussion ensued regarding possible commissioning of future works by local artists.

Motion to purchase "Monkman Falls" by Louanne Hart and "Stony Lake" by Marjorie Henn for an exhibit on trail destinations (Bob Norman, Birgit Sharman). Carried.

12) Website and brochures: Kevin Sharman reported on new brochures and website maintenance. There was discussion about low-maintenance versus high-maintenance websites. It was agreed that AGM minutes be posted on the website.

13) Membership: Slightly down from this time last year. Final 2007-08 membership was 115. 2008-09 membership since Mass Registration is over 60.

14) Athletics Track: \$10000 was transferred to WNMS account from District of Tumbler Ridge (the True Sport funds). Expenses so far have included overseeding and line painting. A Shot put circle has been constructed and was anticipated to cost in the \$3000 range, but this was then

donated by Sandy Williams of TR Concrete – much appreciated. Discus circle and cage are planned for 2009.

15) Mountain Pine Beetle: A number of trails are potentially affected, including the ski trails and the area immediately surrounding Lost Haven Cabin. Tim Bennett presented possible options for dealing with these. If trees are cut near the cabin they will make for a good source of firewood for the cabin. This will be a spring project.

REVIEW OF 2008 EVENTS:

1) Ridge Ramble Cross Country Race: (Linda Helm) 110 participants (record field) and very successful.

2) Ridge Ramble Cross Country Ski Race: (Birgit Sharman) not held in 2008 due to renovations at Golf Course Clubhouse.

3) Ridge Ramble Biathlon: (Linda) 49 entries (record field) in good weather, very successful.

4) Flatbed Loops: (Birgit) 87 participants, average 23, maximum 41 – another great year.

5) Emperor’s Challenge: Charles Helm spoke about this incredible event (in the absence of Kelly McManus and Doug Foerster). Record field of 360 participants.

7) Itchy Feet: (Michele Burton and Charles Helm) By all accounts it was the best season yet, with innovations of Kids Itchy Feet and Teen Itchy Feet. There were thirteen presentations, up from the initial four. Michele Burton spoke about funding options to assist the Library with set-up and promotional activities.

8) Banff Films: (Crys White) Dec 12th. WNMS may need to take a greater role this year in addition to the usual set-up and take down, and MC role. Crys indicated that after years as President and then Vice president, she too would be standing down.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE:

President: **Linda Helm (Bob Norman, Fred Booker)** – elected by acclamation

Vice president: **Craig Waters (Charles Helm, Fred Booker)** – elected by acclamation

Secretary: **Charles Helm (Sarah Gamble, Crys White)** – elected by acclamation

Treasurer: **Patsy Antle (Birgit Sharman, Sarah Gamble)** elected by acclamation

Charles pointed out that from a signing authority perspective, it would be better if he and Linda not co-sign WNMS cheques.

Motion that Linda Helm, Craig Waters, Charles Helm, Patsy Antle and Crys White have signing authority on WNMS accounts, that two signatures are required on any cheque, and that Linda and Charles Helm not be co-signatories on any cheque (Bob Norman, Fred Booker). Carried.

ASSIGNMENT OF PORTFOLIOS:

Coaching: Linda, Birgit, Charles
Tracksetting: Larry, Kevin
Shed: Fred, Larry
Ski Race: Birgit
Emperor's Challenge: Kelly McManus
Biathlon: Linda, Charles
Cross Country race: Linda, Charles
Outings: Sarah Gamble (discussion as to how to make outings more attractive and less burdensome to the organizer).
Cabin Caretaker: Larry
Equipment Maintenance: Dwayne Fry, Fred, Larry
Statistician: Birgit
Website and brochures: Kevin
Phone list: Nellie Meredith
Charitable Status: Michele, Charles

A vote of thanks was proposed to Fred Booker and Crys White for the outstanding work they had done for WNMS over the years.

Motion to adjourn (Marsha Dufresne, Sarah Gamble). Carried. (21h16)

Following the adjournment, Kevin Sharman gave a wonderful slide presentation of 2008 hiking activities.