

Cranbrook Community Forest Society
Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday April 11th, 2022

Location: Zoom Meeting, Cranbrook BC

Meeting came to order at 7:01pm

Attendance: 13

1. Election of Chairperson: Joseph Cross, president, is the Chairperson.
2. Determination of Quorum: There is a quorum.
3. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Brian Marriott, seconded by Randy Harris. Carried.
4. Approval of the previous AGM minutes held on April 15th, 2021: Motion to approve the previous AGM minutes made by Jim Nicol, seconded by Lisa Barnes. Carried.
5. Reports
 - a. President's Report presented by Joseph Cross:
 - The Society is responsible to and under the protection of the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, specifically Recreation Sites & Trails BC. The Ministry contributes signage, barriers, installation and monitoring of outhouses, repair and replacement of benches and picnic tables, and clearing trees on trails with support from Wildfire Management.
 - The CCFS has been granted Charitable Status which allows the Society to give Charitable tax receipts for donations to the CCFS.
 - Through two volunteer work sessions, most of an unused fence has been removed in the northern CF. About one kilometer remains to be removed.
 - The Padawan trail opened last spring in the Egar Hills.
 - Temporary signs have been posted around water bodies in the southern CCF advising dog owners to keep their dogs from harassing nesting water birds during nesting season.
 - There were challenges removing people camping in the forest last year. The Government RAPP program failed to deal with the problem, leaving the Society to remove camps. Thanks to Randy Harris, Kathleen Opal, and Joseph and Sharon Cross, who handled most of the problems. On more than one occasion the RCMP assisted in the removal of campers. The fire department also put out a few human caused fires in the CCF.
 - Due to a funding shortage, the Society tried to use volunteers to open and close the gate by Isadore Canyon on a limited basis. This approach didn't work very well so the board has decided to keep the gate closed permanently. It will be opened for events if requested and approved.
 - Randy Harris took the Environmental Science Students from the College of Rockies on a field trip to explore our Demonstration Forest last fall.
 - Last fall, the Board began discussions on possible parking solutions for the northern CCF. In attendance were MOT, RCMP, RDEK, and FLNRO. The meeting

determined the need for an engineering study of the problem. The report should be ready later this spring.

- Chris Bullock took on the task of spearheading the rebuild of the Fraggie Rock parking area entrance. He created the design, obtained free gravel and dirt from the new Toyota Dealership, and lined up Westco Construction to do the work. With others supporting, the job was a great success.
- Last fall the Board held an annual meeting on Zoom with user groups regarding Board plans and sought their input.
- Mistletoe Lane was decorated throughout the Christmas season once again. Due to covid the lane was visited by throngs of merry walkers.
- An opportunity to engage in a pilot study with a company called Takachar with UBC arose. Using a novel concept called oxygen-lean torrefaction, Takachar has developed and patented the design of small-scale, low-cost, portable equipment to convert waste biomass into solid fuel, fertilizer, and other specialty chemicals. Compared to the process of sending waste biomass to centralized conversion facilities, Takachar's system is thought to be more profitable by significantly reducing the costs of hauling loose, wet, and bulky biomass or burning it, which causes large amounts of smoke. Randy Harris will be the CCFS contact with the company. Takachar plans to have a demonstration unit in this area in 2023.
- Just this last week Randy Harris and Joe met Travis Emsland and his crew with Wildfire Risk Reduction and Roger Powell of BC Timber sales. They visited a good example site south of Cranbrook which demonstrates how work could be done in the CCF to our satisfaction. Randy and Joseph were impressed. The Board looks forward to working with them in the future.
- BC Timber Sales in conjunction with the Ktunaxa are looking at logging in the Egar Hills possibly as early as this coming winter.
- On April 9th the Paw Shop organized a of cleanup of dog scat for which the Board is thankful.
- Joseph met with Paul Vogt, president of the COTR, regarding the large piles of dirt and waste material deposited in the CCF from the new residence construction. Paul Vogt stated it was the responsibility of the contractor to make arrangements for dumping the waste at the site and will not assist in cleaning up the mess. The Board will have to deal with the problem soon.
- The CCFS has established the Cranbrook Community Forest Legacy Fund through the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies. This will enable us to build to a stable financial future for the Community Forest.
- Joe wishes to acknowledge all the organizations, companies and individuals that have donated funds to the CCFS this past year: Recreation Sites & Trails BC, Columbia Basin Trust, Regional District EK, Wildhorse Cycling Club, Sidekicks, Toyota, Trans Canada Energy, Community Foundation of the Kootenays, BC Hydro, Cranbrook Rotary Club, Sunrise Rotary Club, City of Cranbrook, RBC Employees Earth Day Initiative, Drs. Chong and Shilan, Alyssa Panning, and Jean-Ann Debrececi.

- Finally, Joseph thanked all the volunteers and the CCF board that dedicate their time working to make the community forest a valued asset to the area.
- b. Treasurer’s Report: The following summarizes all account activity held by the Society.

	Project Funds Account	Service Plus 100 Account	Invasive Species Project Account *Opened Dec 16, 2021
Opening Balance April 9, 2021	\$197,517.03	\$9,370.18	0
Income	\$46,245.59	\$18,667.75	\$9,000.00
Expenses	\$107,138.92	\$6,173.62	\$5.00
Closing Balance April 2, 2022	\$136,623.70	\$21,864.31	\$8,995.00

Motion to accept the report was made by Kathleen Opal. Seconded by Sharon Cross. Carried.

- c. Trails report presented by Jim Nicol:

Accomplishments during the previous year:

- Fortis BC provided \$5000 for a Trails Maintenance Pilot. This was successful. It will be continued with new funding from the RDEK, City of Cranbrook, and the Wildhorse Cycling Club.
- The adopt a trail program continues. Most trails are adopted but not all have been maintained to the same level.
- CFS received a grant from Columbia Basin Trust for five trail counters. These were installed on five trail heads earlier this spring to provide usage numbers.
- The Padawan trail was completed in May 2021. It is adaptive, green, and 5.5km long.

Plans going forward:

- Cattle guards will be installed at two fence line crossings with barbed wire gates at Going Up and Larch trail intersections.
- Technical trail features will be added to Knights Trail and More Poultry.
- An eroded section of Upper Knights will be re-routed, and the old section of trail decommissioned and reclaimed.
- Pod Racer, an 8.5km extension of Padawan, will be built. Construction has started and targeted to be complete by summer.
- New Kiosk maps are nearly complete and planned to be installed by year end.

6. Elect or appoint Directors: The following CCFS members let their names stand for another two-year term: Brian Marriott, Joseph Cross, and Lisa Barnes. These members were elected to the board by acclamation.

The following board members remain on the board for the second year of their two-year term: Dan Oicle, Jim Nicol, Jo Ellen Floer, Kathleen Opal, and Randy Harris.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Minutes recorded by Jo Ellen Floer