

**Cranbrook Community Forest Society**  
**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting, Cranbrook BC

Meeting came to order at 6:05 pm

Attendance: 13

1. Introductions: Joseph Cross welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Society Directors.
2. Approval of Agenda: Kathleen Opal moved to approve the Agenda; Lisa Barnes seconded. Motion Carried.
3. Approval of previous minutes for April 17, 2019. Randy Harris moved to approve the minutes; Jim Nicol seconded. Motion carried.
4. President's report presented by Joseph Cross:
  - a. Joe reminded everyone that the CCFS is responsible to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, more specifically to Lisa Cox with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. Lisa recently replaced the tables and benches on Eager Hill and assisted in the installation of a bench donated by a family.
  - b. The area directly south of the CCF was logged by BC Timber Sales last winter. Final cleanup is being done by hand. The harvesting contractor also enlarged the upper Parking Lot. The Broda Group donated 10 loads of crush for the lot. Remcan donated the transportation and BCTS spread the gravel.
  - c. The Great Trail tourist loop was established through the CCF and celebrated with a grand opening in May 2019.
  - d. Cranbrook Tourism is promoting the CCF through their website. A series of loop trails have been mapped to be used by new users and tourists to the area.
  - e. The Society along with the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council and the Cranbrook Society for Community Living organized a weed pull in July 2019.
  - f. The Sunrise Rotary Club has been supporting the CCF through the sale of caps and toques.
  - g. Momentum Mountain Solutions did vegetative plot sampling in the CCF which will be used for educational purposes.
  - h. The gasline parking lot was expanded by the City of Cranbrook with Lisa Cox's assistance. The lot has seen a lot of use since the expansion.
  - i. Joe thanked all the volunteers who empty the trail head garbage cans that mostly contain doggy waste.
  - j. The Wildhorse Cycling Club groomed numerous trails with snow dogs for winter cycling and walking last winter.
  - k. Late in 2019, the Society was short of funds and reached out to the membership. Many individuals, businesses and user groups responded and donated. This show of support boosted our spirits and demonstrated the value of Cranbrook Community Forest to our community.

- l. Recreation Sites and Trails BC signs related to controlling dogs around wildlife were posted at various water bodies in the CCF last spring. They will be put up again each spring during bird nesting season.
  - m. The Society works with Wildhorse Cycling Club through a trails subcommittee to develop, maintain, and create new trails. Their club applies for grants and have established an “Adopt a Trail” program for members and the public.
  - n. The board has established a standard style of benches and tables that citizens can donate for placement in the CCF for memorial purposes. A bench was placed near Sylvan Lake this summer.
  - o. The Gateway Trail entrance is being relocated and the trail rerouted due to the construction of residences at the COTR.
  - p. Board member Jim Nicol has put in an application for charitable status. This will help with fundraising if the application is successful.
  - q. The board is in discussion with BC Timber Sales about thinning the stands in the southern portion of the CCF to create a healthier forest. No plan has been presented yet. The board will be looking at approaches that leave a more natural looking forest.
  - r. The board has approached the provincial government to remove the grazing tenure from the north side of the CCF. An unmaintained fence in the middle is a hazard to wildlife and a hindrance to plans for new trails in the area. The government is not willing to remove the grazing tenure. No plan yet for the fence.
  - s. The board thanks two retiring board members for their valued contribution to making the CCF a success. Tara Szkorupa and Walter Rechlin are moving on and they will be missed.
5. Treasurer’s report: Presented by Kathleen Opal  
 The April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 opening balance was \$35,094.23 and the closing balance on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 balance is \$8737.46. Total income: \$15,806.31 for this extended period and total expenses \$42,163.08. The main expense of \$30,500 was for the construction of the Espresso group of trails. Motion to accept the report was made by Kathleen Opal, seconded by Lisa Barnes. Motion Carried.  
 Kathleen thanked many organizations, businesses, and individuals for their support.
6. Trails Report presented by Jim Nicol:
- a. Looking back
    - i. Loop System – the Forest and Lake Loops are complete. Trail Maps are available on the website
    - ii. Adopt-a-Trail program has been established. Volunteers do minor pruning and debris removal and report on conditions. Most trails have been adopted. If you are interested, send an email to CCFadoptatrail@gmail.com
    - iii. Larry Trail- this is a new blue trail from Kettle Lake to Hill bypass. Will be completed in the spring.
    - iv. Trail Plan – last updated in 2016. This update outlines the previous 5 years of trail building and improvements and planning for the next 5-10 years. Current breakdown of trail difficulty is: 28% easy, 48% moderate and 24% difficult or very difficult.
  - b. Looking Forward
    - i. Trail Maintenance Pilot – Fortis is funding a trail maintenance pilot where a person to be paid to do trail maintenance next year. The Society hopes to learn

from the experience and possibly partner with City of Cranbrook and RDEK to carry it on in the future.

- ii. COTR Gateway Trail entrance – will be re-established in the spring.
- iii. The COTR would like to enhance some trails and possibly build a skills park near the college. It plans to fundraise up to \$50,000 which the college will match. This will be a college project.
- iv. The COTR will match up to \$50,000 of funds raised for trail enhancement and possibly a skills park. All would be built by the college.
- v. Green Trail – the board has put in an application to build a multiuse green trail that circles Eager Hill. It should be as easy and fun as Pilsit with a 4.5k inner loop and 8k extension loop. One of the goals is to make it an “Adaptive Trail” suitable for disabled cyclists. There is already confirmed financial support from Fortis BC, RDEK, and the Wildhorse Cycling Club. Grant requests have been made to the Columbia Basin Trust and the Economic Recovery Program for the remainder of the funds needed to build the trails.
- vi. New Trailhead – the board would like to establish a new trail head by the Fort Steele/Fernie interchange east of Eager Hill. It will take pressure of the other busy trailheads and improve access to the new Green Trail. A Traffic Impact study is required by Ministry of Transportation before they will permit access off the highway.
- vii. Trailhead Improvements – the board is looking to improve access the to the Fraggle Rock and Eager Hill parking areas in the future.

7. Elections of officers

Elections were held for half of the Director positions. Motion to nominate and elect the following was made by Kathleen Opal; Tara Szkorupa second. Carried.

Elected for a two-year term are:

Lisa Barnes  
Joseph Cross  
Brian Marriott  
Jen Siemens

Elected for a one-year term are:

Randy Harris  
Dan Oicle

Returning for year two of a two-year term are:

Jo Ellen Floer  
Jim Nicol  
Kathleen Opal

8. Announcements

None

9. Questions and Answers

None

10. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm

Minutes recorded by Jo Ellen Floer