

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

Date: Tuesday April 23rd, 2024

Location: College of the Rockies, Room KC205

7pm start

Attendance: 22

1. Election of Chairperson: Joseph Cross, president, is the Chairperson.
2. Determination of Quorum: There is a quorum.
3. Introductions: Joseph Cross introduced the current members of the Board.
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Brian Marriott, Seconded by Dan Oicle. Carried.
5. Presentation by Emma and Morag of the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC) on invasive species treatment in the CCF: There are 10 species being targeted for treatment. Leafy Spurge on Ewok & Roll Trail is the number 1 priority. EKISC will contact the Board with the spray contractor's work schedule. Board members have volunteered to learn about operational weed treatments to help with education of CCF users.
6. Presentation by Travis Emsland of Wildfire Risk Reduction Branch (WRR) on proposed treatment in the CCF: The prescriptions are completed for the area bordering the east side of the City of Cranbrook but the actual method of treatment, i.e. 100% chipping, handwork and/or small mechanical equipment has not been determined. Trails will be addressed with some reserve buffers. WRR is considering using the old dump site for all the processing. WRR does not treat mature trees which are over 15cm dbh. A commitment has been made to review the prescriptions with the CCF board, after which any suggestions will be taken into consideration. Lisa Cox with RSTBC has a say on activities around trails or infrastructure. There should be more communication to members as to what will happen to help alleviate concerns. There will be another public forum prior to any operations. Actual start date is tentatively in 2025 or 2026.
7. Approval of the previous AGM minutes for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Motion to approve the previous AGM minutes made by Lisa Barnes, seconded by Sandra Haley. Carried.
8. Reports
  - a. President's Report by Joseph Cross:
    - i. Joseph thanked Lisa Cox and Aaron Canuel of Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC) for their continued support.
    - ii. The gate near the Chief Isadore trailhead will remain closed but can be opened to approved events. There is a possibility it will be open in the future if adequate security and funding can be secured.
    - iii. Meetings were held with Ministry of Forests and Wildfire Risk Reduction personnel regarding future thinning of the forest from the Golf Course area to Sylvan Lake.
    - iv. Randy Harris continues to tour the COTR Environmental Science Students through the demonstration forest above the COTR.

- v. A weed pull and BBQ was held in June. Six volunteers picked 11 bags of knapweed from two sites in the Sylvan Lake area.
  - vi. EKISC is doing herbicide treatment on invasive species throughout the CCF annually for three years. The Board is following up with grass seeding where appropriate to minimize weed growth.
  - vii. Work continues with the Ministry of Transport to establish a safer entrance to the parking area at Car Lake and the Padawan and Pod Racer trails. It is a slow process with the possibility of some work starting this year.
  - viii. The Padawan (Car Lake) Parking area has been improved with a new toilet installed, parking area leveled and a new sign Kiosk along with a boot cleaning station installed.
  - ix. The Cranbrook Community Forest Society Legacy Fund continues to grow, and the Board thanks all those who have contributed to it.
  - x. The Gravel Grind had a successful event again last fall. They donated \$2500 for trail maintenance, which is greatly appreciated.
  - xi. This winter the City of Cranbrook included a number of proposed roads through the CCF in the draft OCP. Individuals were asked to contact the City to have the proposed roads removed. Joseph personally contacted the councilors and mayor to have the roads removed from the plan. Only Mayor Wayne Price and Councilor Ron Popoff did not reply. All the others agreed with our request.
  - xii. The Board recently met with Hunter Corrigan, who is working on a Consolidation Park Proposal to develop the Community Forest old landfill site into a mountain bike skills park/community forest hub.
  - xiii. CCF board members, volunteers, and staff from RSTBC have removed a several homeless camps from the CCF. Last spring many sites were burnt, including a motor home near the SPCA and Standard Hill Trailer Park area. These sites were cleaned up. Five and a half truckloads of garbage were removed from a new site discovered abandoned East of the Fence Line in the Southern CCF this spring.
  - xiv. Joseph, on behalf of the board, expressed the Board's deepest gratitude to all the organizations, companies and individuals that have donated funds, or services to the CCFS this year and in the past. The organizations and companies are numerous and can be viewed on our website.
  - xv. 423 hours of volunteer time by 16 individuals went towards servicing the CCF.
  - xvi. Joseph thanked all the volunteers and the CCF board that dedicated their time working to make the community forest the gem of our community.
- b. Treasurer's Report: Randy Harris presented the report on behalf of the treasurer, Kathleen Opal.

|                                | Project Funds Account | Service Plus 100 Account | Invasive Species Project Account |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Opening Balance March 31, 2023 | \$29,953.51           | \$28,818.54              | 19,999.00                        |
| Income                         | \$5,146.65            | \$20,656.60              | \$00                             |
| Expenses                       | \$34,256.98           | \$22,200.32              | \$8,567.38                       |
| Closing Balance April 15, 2024 | \$843.18              | \$27,274.82              | \$11,431.62                      |

Dan Oicle moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Seconded by Sandra Haley. Carried.

- c. Trails Report by Jim Nicol: The Padawan/Podracers project is complete. It includes over 15k of beginner / Adaptive trails, trailhead improvements, a new outhouse, and an outhouse improvement at Eager Hill. The budget was over \$250k with primary funding from the Province of BC, but also Columbia Basin Trust, Private donors, RDEK, Wildhorse Cycling Club and Fortis BC. A Grand opening is planned for June 5<sup>th</sup>. The focus this year is to improve signage and kiosks. The five person trail maintenance crew will mainly work on safety oriented improvements and inventory this year. Note that the private is now open again to the public with thanks to the Wildhorse Cycling Club on their efforts on this.
9. Elect or appoint Directors and Officers: The following CCFS members let their names stand for a two-year term: Brian Marriott, Lisa Barnes, Joseph Cross, and Sandra Haley. All 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. The following were nominated and elected by acclamation for the officer positions:
  - a. President – Joseph Cross
  - b. Treasurer – Kathleen Opal
  - c. Secretary – Jo Ellen Floer
10. Open Discussion – No word has come from the City regarding the removal of proposed roads in the CCF from the draft OCP.
11. Adjournment Meeting: adjourned at 8:40pm