



**Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club
Board of Directors Meeting**
Thursday, December 3rd, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Board Members

Jean Paul Molgat, President
Craig Thur, Secretary
Jan Downing, Director
Stuart Hamilton, Director
Leslie Gomm, Director
Dermot Flynn, Past President

Jonathan Kerr, Vice-President
Adam Greenwood, Treasurer
Julie McVicar, Director
Sarah Murray, Director
Jan Horton, Director

Club Management

Jan Polivka, Operations

Ben Poudou, Club Manager

Guest

Afan JONES of the *Northern Huts Society*

1. Call to Order

Jean Paul called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Approval and Additions to Agenda

No additions and Agenda approved.

3. Northern Huts Society Presentation/Discussion

Afan JONES spoke for a few minutes followed by approximately 10 minutes of questions from the board. The following information was discussed:

- The *Northern Huts Society* is interested in establishing a system of back country huts in the southwestern Yukon for use by outdoor enthusiasts;
- The Society intends this initiative to be non-profit and non commercial;
- The huts are intended to be constructed in scenic back country along a marked route;
- Five (5) Yukon First Nations have been informed of the Society's intended goals and consultation and cooperation with these First Nations is a priority;
- The *Northern Huts Society* see the WCCSC trail system as a natural "launching point" for access to the proposed backcountry hut system;
- Afan JONES mentioned that WCCSC still has "title" to the location of the former Fraser Hut on the Fraser Loop;
- Afan JONES invited the ski club to discuss whether or not WCCSC is interested in being part of such a trail system.

Jonathan KERR provided Afan JONES with some background information about the discussion and considerations that were involved with the ski club approving the rebuild of Harvey's Hut and the construction of the Upper Valley Memorial Hut and why it was decided that these two huts **are not** to be used for overnight stays (primarily fire code and liability considerations).

Jean Paul MOLGAT stated in summary at the end of the discussion that a back country hut system is an idea that likely aligns well with the interests of many WCCSC members and he invited Afan JONES to keep the dialogue open between the *Northern Huts Society* and the ski club.

4. Review and approval of the draft Minutes from November 5th 2020

Review and approval of the draft minutes from November 5th, 2020. Moved by Jan Horton and seconded by Julie. All in favour. Carried.

Updates

5. Major Event Volunteer 'Inventory' - Jonathan

This item is to remain on future Agendas.

No updates to report at this meeting however it was spoke to in the President's Report.

6. Policy Governance committee - Jean Paul

Jean Paul informed the board that he, Bengt Pettersson and Fraser Pearce have completed work of a draft policy document and these draft policies are now posted to the board page of the club's website.

The draft policies can now be reviewed and a schedule for the board to amend and adopt policies can now begin. This will be an ongoing Agenda item for 2021.

Standing Items

7. Financial Reporting

- Adam

Adam reported that the club continues to be in a good financial position.

There is now a projected surplus of \$90 000.00.

Some expenses have increased such as CCY and credit card fees.

There will be some increase in wages for the hiring of a *trail host* however since the position of assistant manger was not filled this year the *trail host* wages will not significantly affect the budgeted wage expenses.

There was room for expense increases in the approved budget therefore there is no real need to switch any budget allocations at present.

Adam supports the purchase of a new Pisten Bully in 2021 but not trading in or selling our current PB this time. The club is big enough and busy enough that it can run two Pisten Bully's so that more grooming can be done on weekends.

Most importantly, a second PB allows for a 'back-up' PB so the club can provide the same quality of trails when inevitable mechanical breakdowns occur.

8. Club Manager's Report

Ben prepared and provided the board with a written report posted to the board page of the website. It included updates about the youth and children's programs which are going well while following COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

Although the ski club has seen a large increase in revenue so far this year he was encouraged to apply and will apply to Sport Yukon for \$11 000.00 to help offset the costs of the club's COVID-19 mitigation efforts such as increased janitorial costs.

Ben informed the board that he has reconsidered having the club host events that involve food and beverage sharing given the current COVID-19 restrictions in the Yukon.

Ben is however comfortable with the chalet being open for business. An extra staff member will be working on weekends and holidays days to greet people and monitor the number of people in the wax room. The next stage would be to reduce the maximum number of people in the wax room. If the Canada Games Centre closes the ski club will have to consider closing the wax room but this would be a 'last resort' decision.

The vast majority of ski club members and facility users have been compliant with the rules and that mandatory masks in public places has helped with compliance.

Dave Kerr has been hired as a ski host to answer questions, educate skiers about dog policy and check for memberships and ski passes.

9. Operations Manager's Report

Jan prepared a written report that was posted to the board page of the website prior to the meeting.

Jan is recommending the purchase of a new Pisten Bully without selling the one the club currently owns.

The electric snowmobile will be ready for use at the beginning of next season.

10. President's Report

Jean Paul

Jean Paul met with Alain Masson and Dominic Bradford of CCY to discuss snowmaking for the future. CCY will continue to carry the financial cost of snowmaking and work towards efficiency with the process. CCY considers the stadium to be the key area for snowmaking.

It is the belief of CCY that the earliest possible date WCCSC would be able to win and host the Ski Nationals would be 2024 which would require a bid submission in the spring of 2022.

Jean Paul informed the board that there has been discussion at the City of Whitehorse level about doing work in the stadium so that it get more all season use. If this plan for increased use of the stadium were to include the formation of a soccer pitch this would not likely be compatible with winters snowmaking and heavy equipment work to move snow from the stadium to a skiing loop.

Jeff O'Farrell of the City of Whitehorse encourages the club to lobby for funding for renovations to the Mt. McIntyre building and to maintain an active voice in what any approved renovations will look like.

Jan Downing and Leslie Gomm are working on a funding application for the new Pisten Bully. They have met with representatives from the Community Development Fund (CDF) and Yukon Lotteries.

- CDF could potentially provide 50% of the cost of a new PB.
- Yukon Lotteries is keen to help.

The CDF funding decision will be announced a couple of weeks before the Yukon Lotteries application is due therefore the club will have to be ready with a Lotteries application however Yukon Lotteries does seem to be supportive of funding the purchase of a Pisten Bully. Yukon Lotteries has previously financed Mt. Sima's in the purchase of a ski hill groomer from the Yukon Lotteries Large Projects Fund. Jan recommended submitting the WCCSC application for a Pisten Bully through the Yukon Lotteries Large Projects Fund.

Leslie advocated for WCCSC generally being more aggressive in funding applications.

Jean Paul proposed that the board agree to proceed with the purchase of a new Pisten Bully under the assumption that the club will keep the PB currently in use. This decision could always be revisited after it is determine how operating and maintaining two PBs is working out. The older PB could be sold if it is determined it is necessary to do so.

Discussion and Decision Items

11. Amendments to Dog Policy

- Jan & Craig

Due to increased use of Dog and Sun Dog Trails and for the purpose of increased safety and a better skiing experience, the existing dog policy will be amended to reflect the following:

- One way south travel on Dog Trail
- One way north travel on Sun Dog Trail
- No leashes required on the ski trails with the exception of from the chalet to Dog Trail down the ramp and through the tunnel
- Leashes required in the parking lot

Stuart moved that the board adopt this policy change and Julie seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Craig will write the amendments to the policy.

12. Biathlon Yukon /WCCSC co-location feasibility study

Investment of approximately \$ 1 400 000.00 has been granted in principle by the Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch to the current Biathlon Yukon facilities. There has not been any stakeholder engagement between the Yukon Government, Biathlon Yukon, WCCSC and CCY.

An initial local study has determined that there is the potential for Biathlon facilities within the greater footprint of the current WCCSC trail system. CCY supports a continued feasibility study.

The board was in agreement that there is a considerable upside to the resource sharing that could occur should co-location of Biathlon Yukon and WCCSC happen.

A WCCSC board, Biathlon Yukon board and CCY board discussion was encouraged by the WCCSC board. This could involve at least two members for each of the 3 boards.

Jean Paul put forward the following motion:

1) That the WCCSC Board supports engaging CCY, Biathlon Yukon and the Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch at the earliest opportunity on the matter of conducting a feasibility study on the potential for locating biathlon trails and facilities within the area of the WCCSC trails and facilities at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Area.

2) That the Board supports proceeding with a feasibility study on the matter above in partnership with CCY and Biathlon Yukon.

3) That the Board supports making a financial contribution toward the cost of a feasibility study in an amount to be determined at a future Board meeting.

Sarah seconded this motion. All in favour. Carried.

13. Strategic Plan Implementation Priorities

This Agenda item was deferred to a 90 minute meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17th beginning a 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held virtually via ZOOM.

Board members are asked to visit the board page of the WCCSC website and to identify their priorities using the 2020-2022 Simplified Implementation Plan Action Document.

Adjournment: The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm

Next Board Meetings:

- **Thursday, December 17th, 2020** (A 90 minute ZOOM meeting to discuss Strategic Plan Implementation)
- **Thursday, January 7th, 2021** (a regular board meeting. Location/format TBD)