



Cowichan Trail Stewardship Society AGM MEETING MINUTES

Date: Apr. 28, 2021

Location: Zoom virtual meeting (6:00pm)

Call to Order: 6:02pm by Matt Grossnickle

Present: Matt Grossnickle, Kelly Dougan, Rick Martinson, Dan Berard, Tom Roozendaal, Chris Istace, Pete Stevenson, Mark Wallace and Ryan Jordan (Directors); Tara Pollock (Ladysmith Chapter Director); Trevor Thew (Trail Lead); Vicki Holman (Executive Director)
31 individuals present

Minutes Recorded by: Kelly Dougan

Agenda

SB1 – Approval of Agenda – Membership

SB2 – Approval of Minutes (2019 AGM) – Membership

SB3 – President's Report – Matt Grossnickle

SB4 – CTSS Ladysmith Chapter Report – Tara Pollock

SB5 – Municipality of North Cowichan Report – Don Stewart

SB6 – Membership and social media – Vicki Holman and Tom Roozendaal

SB7 – Year-end financial update – Rick Martinson

SB8 – Ratification of new CTSS Board members – Membership

SB9 – Special Resolution: Adoption of New Bylaws – Membership

SB10 – Questions from the membership – Membership

SB11 – Motion to Adjourn – Membership

SB1 - Adoption of the agenda for 2021. Ratified by voting members of the CTSS

SB2 - Approval of the minutes for 2019. Ratified by voting members of the CTSS

SB3 - President's Report (see attached) – Matt Grossnickle

Matt thanked those in attendance for coming and thanked the current Board for their dedication to furthering the efforts of the CTSS this year. It's been a remarkable year what with the COVID pandemic. Huge increase in trail usership which is both exciting and challenging. Highlights of this year: Vicki Holman was hired as Executive Director; hosted a strategic planning session; completed a tremendous amount of trail maintenance including a Double D rebuild and the building of many revived structures. Upcoming things to look forward to: Adoption of Mt Prevost; local races; BCBR event in the fall and an event with Specialized and Experience Cycling.

We currently manage 88km of multi-use trails and with this comes challenges related to rising usership. For the coming year, we will continue to fulfill our duties as outlined in our Maintenance Agreement for all trails on Maple Mountain and Mount

Tzouhalem with MNC. Additionally, we will be further focusing on our goals in our strategic plan, and intend to grow our membership.
Ratified by voting members of the CTSS

SB4 - Ladysmith CTSS Chapter – Tara Pollock

Have been involved in augmenting Brown Drive Park, including trails and a skills area. With a grant from the Town of Ladysmith, sponsored an adult and youth trail building course put on by FVMBA. Liaised with various stakeholders in Ladysmith to promote local trail development. Have produced numerous reports for the Town in regards to watershed challenges and maintenance issues of Stocking Lake and Hart Lake trails. The land-use agreement with Mosaic has been put on hold which has stalled further trail development in the area. Thanked the volunteers in Ladysmith and the CTSS as a whole.

SB5 – Municipality of North Cowichan Report – Don Stewart, Director of Parks and Recreation (Municipality of North Cowichan staff)

MNC is proud of the relationship with CTSS and the work that CTSS has been doing. Received provincial grant funding to sanction and upgrade trails on Mt Prevost, including putting in trail signage and a trail kiosk. Local builders will be included in these plans. Kingsview and Nevilane new parking lot planned, including a washroom and kiosk. Trails here will link to Kaspas parking lot as well as the start of Muni Trail. The Nevilane parking lot will be doubled in size and a washroom will be installed. Kaspas parking lot washroom will be upgraded in the next 6-8 weeks. Highway and road signage prepped for Maple Mt trailhead which will act as a pilot. Echo Heights Park will be getting trail signage. Federal grant application submitted worth \$1 million to build a multi-modal trail from Crofton to Maple Bay (should hear outcome later this year). A further grant to build a climbing trail on Prevost has also been applied for (should hear the outcome of this later this year).

Question about maintenance on Mt Richards: trails are currently unsanctioned but will hopefully be sanctioned in 2022 and will not be maintained until then.

Question about signage on Mt Tzouhalem in regards to mixed use versus biking only: summer students start on Monday (two trail students) and will be tackling this item.

Question about Prevost climbing trail and Bings Creek trail: Bings Creek trail will not be part of sanctioning process as the start is on private property (this is being negotiated); new climbing trail will be off Mt Prevost road and will be two way use for hikers and uphill only for bikers.

Question about Nevilane trail as the beginning is apparently on private property: MNC is aware of this and working on it.

SB6 – Membership and social media– Vicki Holman and Tom Roozendaal

Vicki discussed the importance of membership – this year we offer youth, adult, family (new this year) and corporate memberships. These fees allow us to advocate for the use of public lands and ensure trails will always exist. We have 190 members; 15 of these are corporate members. Goal to have 300 members by end of 2021.

Tomorrow video will be launched by Eric Ferris of One Yellow Tree Productions to highlight local trails with a link to becoming a member of CTSS.

Social media team – Vicki manages newsletter and website trail crew often posting trail updates, Chris Istace keeps TrailForks up to date and Tom Roozendaal admin's the Pi'Paam page which is not a CTSS page. Reminder to use the trail reporting feature on TrailForks and to be respectful when responding to posts!

SB7 – Year-end Financial Update (see attached) – Rick Martinson

Healthy financial position currently. Had a healthy surplus as of December 2020. Ran a surplus of \$2600 in 2020; revenue was up \$20 000 over the year (MNC budget went up 30% last year and has increased again for 2021). Expenses were focused on trail maintenance (approx.. \$80 000). Ratified by voting members of the CTSS

SB8 - Ratification of new CTSS Board members – Membership

Voting in of Proposed 2021 Directors: Matt Grossnickle, Kelly Dougan, Rick Martinson, Dan Berard, Tom Roozendaal, Chris Istace, Pete Stevenson, Mark Wallace, Ryan Jordan, Michele Carr, McKay Vezina and Dan Johnson (Directors); Tara Pollock (Ladysmith Chapter Representative)

Ratified by voting members of the CTSS from the audience.

SB9 - Special Resolution: Adoption of New Bylaws – Membership

See attached

Ratified by voting members of the CTSS from the audience.

SB10 - Questions from the membership – Membership

Director Chris thanked the trail crew and our Executive Director for their work this past year. Also thanked those involved in work on legacy feature rebuilds and liaising with original builders. Also thanked MNC staff and praised their positive relationship with the CTSS.

Member of the public asked about E road on Tzouhalem and if it would be sanctioned. Answer: not right away but likely in future.

Director Dan asked about membership plan. Answer: membership drives (based on other organizations) and more events will be the focus as well as races, etc.

Member of the public asked about TrailForks Trail Karma and revenue from this. Answer: generally \$300 per year though this year has likely been more though Treasurer will have to look into specific amount for this past year. Local trail organization gets 100% of funds from Trail Karma.

Member of the public would like to see a skills park locally. Answer: this is in Parks and Trails Master Plan (location is upper slope of Kingsview development which will coincide with an additional parking lot).

Member of the public asked about future access from Providence Farm. Answer: MNC has a Maintenance Agreement with Providence Farm for upper slopes of Tzouhalem. Providence Farm has concerns about accessing trails from their land. MNC will continue to work on this.

Member of the public asked about the small section on Tzouhalem that is fenced off and wondered why. Answer: bypass trail has been built around and trail functions as an out and back in to the ecological reserve to avoid the thru trail.

Member of the public asked about Ladysmith trails and clarification on hiking only trails versus mixed use.

Inland Trail and Viewpoint trail signage on Tzouhalem will be put in in July to help people navigate to the Cross. High speed signage at other locations will be put in soon.

SB11 - Meeting Adjourned: 6:58pm by Matt Grossnickle