

Cowichan Trail Stewardship Society Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2025

Location: Red Arrow Brewing

Meeting Called to Order: 18:10

Attendees

Members: 31 – quorum was met

Executive Director: Lorrie Mansey

Trail Director: Brendan Gauthier

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Ron Erickson

Seconded: Tavish Annis

Carried

2. Approval of 2024 Minutes

Motion: Brendon Earl

Seconded: Mckay Vezina

Carried

3. President's Report (Rick Martinson)

Ongoing Projects completed in 2024:

- Prevost trail sanctioning
- Double D refresh machine built
- Trail user survey (launched Fall 2023; presentations ongoing)



New Initiatives:

- \$68,000 donation from Shimano Trail Born to support Jackson Goldstone film project on Prevost plus additional trail work
- *Prevost Combine*: A new initiative targeting youth aspiring to become professional riders
- *Prevost Advisory Group*: Formed to ensure the trail community guides maintenance work
- Documentation of trail history: focusing on the origins, naming, and development of the trail networks
- Historical record of CTSS formation and development

Acknowledgments & Contributions:

- \$5,000 donation by Hatton Insurance of their brokerage award.
- Jason Hatton – \$1,000 donation from celebrity chef pizza fundraiser
- Matthuw Ronald-Jones – \$2500 donation matching campaign for Double D
- Cal Kaiser – \$1500 sponsorship of November Beef & Beer Fundraiser
- Steve Garnett – cedar donation
- Mark Wallace – milled cedar and FireSmart fir
- North Cowichan – FireSmart fir contribution
- Over \$20,000 from charitable donations from individual supporters including a donor who contributes through payroll deductions from work.

Volunteer & Staff Contributions:

- Over 8,000 hours of work (volunteer + paid staff)
- Volunteer work was worth over \$100,000 if it was paid work.

4. Financial Report (Mike Evans)

- \$37,000 overall increase in revenues for 2024 over 2023. Own-source revenue increased \$55,000 while the flow-through of grants from North Cowichan decreased by \$44,000 (related to completion of Prevost sanctioning)
 - \$2,400 operating deficit for 2024
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5. Trail Operations Report

Prevost Projects:

- *The Ritz* received significant upgrades to accommodate Jackson Goldstone filming
- *Free Radicals* dig day on Prevost (Bubonic and Mr. T)
- April Dig Day on Patchworks, Ritz and Threat Level Midnight sponsored by Miranda Miller of Sram.
- Race Trail completed by volunteers

Tzouhalem Projects:

- *Double D* refresh with both paid and volunteer labour and machine time
- Garry and Roy are the Tzou volunteer trail crew. They maintain a number of trails and report to Brendan
- *Awesome Trail* maintenance
- Skinny added on *Tzou Mainline*

Maple Mountain Projects:

- Cleanup of *Tony Arbutus*
- Broom removal on *South View*
- Dirt capping on *Upper Maple Syrup*
- Rainbow bridge replaced on *Lower Maple Syrup*

Equipment:

- Purchase of mini excavator by Brendan (owned by Brendan, not CTSS)

Motion to Approve Reports:

Moved: Dan Johnson

Seconded: Tavish Annis

Carried at 18:35

6. Report from the Municipality of North Cowichan (Neil Pukush)

- Voiced support for CTSS initiatives

Forestry Review:

- North Cowichan is moving toward co-management with Quw'utsun Nations. This is unique in BC as it does not involve Crown land.
- Proponent has been selected from proposal call (announcement pending)

- Estimated duration: 18–24 months
- New sanctioned trails will not be permitted until co-management framework completion
- Public updates will be shared, though no formal engagement process planned
- FireSmart work is currently paused until fall

Additional Updates:

- ~152 signs missing from Tzou; estimated cost to replace is \$1,600 plus labour.
- North Cowichan is getting positive public feedback on the Tzouhalem boardwalk – it is very much appreciated
- Firehall Trails: kiosk and signage pending; trail naming in collaboration with Quw’utsun Nations

7. Questions from members

Pump Track:

- Proposed location: Sportsplex property at Beverly and Lakes Rd
- Sportsplex board is supportive
- Velosolutions provided a preliminary cost estimate (non-specific)
- Next steps:
 1. Delegation to North Cowichan to secure land use
 2. Return to CTSS for fundraising efforts
- Target: have planning completed by Fall
- Neil Pukesh expressed interest but noted financial constraints will be the largest hurdle

Fuller Lake Arena Trails:

- A championship-level disc golf course is being installed and no plans to develop trails

Mount Richards

- Trails fall under the new co-management plan and are not eligible for sanctioning until that is completed and the Parks & Trails Masterplan is revisited.

FireSmart:

- Why is the top of Maple Mountain targeted for FireSmart work? – answer pending
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8. 2025 Priorities

- Pump track development
 - Tzouhalem Summit bypass trail
 - Bumblebee Trail enhancements (speed management)
 - Refresh of *Xylem* and *Phloem* trails
 - Tzouhalem signage updates
 - *Memphis* Trail upgrades
 - Firehall trail sanctioning
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9. Board Election & Acclamation

- Outgoing directors Kelly Dougan, Ryan Jordan and Dan Cathro were thanked.
 - Board applications must be received at least 10 days before the AGM. Current directors **Mark Wallace**, **Dan Berard** and **Colleen Barbalinardo** put their names forward for re-election. Four applications were received from members and one withdrew. The board approved applications from **Cass Currie**, **Elliott Kennedy** and **Jemima Monro**.
 - Motion to acclaim the above 6 directors for 2 year terms:
Motion: Tavish Annis
Seconded: Steven Garnett
Carried
 - Board members with 1 year remaining on their term: **Rick Martinson**, **Mike Evans**, **Dan Johnson**, **Michele Carr**, **Robin McDaniel**, **Tavish Annis**, **John Makson**.
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10. Adjournment

Motion: Matt Grossnickle

Seconded: Dan Johnson

Adjourned at 19:45pm