

**Squamish Trails Society – March 19, 2010
Minutes**

Arts Council Building, Cleveland Avenue, Downtown Squamish

Present: Bob Brant, Heather Evans, Don Laurence, Jennifer Adams, Vic Drought, Doug Morrison, Pru Fuller, Graham Fuller, Karin Buchanan, Don Laurence (8:25).

Chair: Bob Brant
Recorder: Heather Evans

Meeting began at 7:05pm.

Garibaldi at Squamish Presentation

The scheduled presentation and discussion period with GAS was cancelled by the proponent in advance of the meeting, citing medical emergency by the designated representative and no available alternate representative of GAS.

AGM

Next month is the AGM. Jennifer will put an ad in the paper, including a suggestion that a message goes in the paper that reminds members to pay their dues - \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families.

Communications

Doug is updating the membership list information and is making good progress on it.

Ray Peters Trail

STS (\$10K) partnered with DoS (\$10K) via a grant thru SORCA, trail funded by the national trails council. "Digosaurus" was the successful bidder. They rebuilt they RPT along highway 99. Bob, Mike and Todd tomorrow and will discuss payment to the contractor.

Oceanfront Trails - SODC

Trevor Dunn gave a presentation in January. Bob met with Trevor to follow up on some questions / concerns – not enough accommodation for bikes on the streets. SODC has adjusted the plan to better accommodate, as well as on the trails throughout the peninsula. Bob suggested that they need areas for people to park at gateways / parking areas. There will be a parkade at the south end, and he has taken note about possibility to do a land swap with Westmana to put a parking area, close to the Howe Sound Inn. Bob also discussed with Trevor that SODC has funds they want to spend on a trail project. Bob's suggestion to bring trail on the west side into better resurfacing; Trevor suggested the southern end of the trail as it's less likely to be dug up or re-routed in the future as a result of development. In the ultimate development plan the trails society is suggesting a 20ft width. This might be a bit wider than what the District is currently contemplating but not sure.

Doug was proposing a covered walkway between Cleveland and southward, just a little bit inland, so that people can walk and avoid the elements.

Earth Day – April 22nd?

Ted will be the STS representative for earth day.

There are some styrofoam centred cement blocks (with crumbling cement) in the Cattermole slough area; perhaps the team looking after earth day will take this on as the Styrofoam is getting away. Up to the team

Invasive Species

Carl to provide an update at a later date.

Anthem Properties, Discovery Trail

Cut of selected trees has begun, with retention areas on both sides of the Discovery trail. The cut areas will be replanted. There are agreements in place and monitoring. The Anthem properties section will be paved in the future.

Doug suggests that relevant District bylaws could be pulled and referenced, so that members of various societies can understand them and responsibly read and respond. Perhaps we need an “idiots’ guide” to the key bylaws, or something similar.

Web Site

Can build a website for free at the Hotspot, for a \$250 donation.
Namespro.ca – to buy a domain name.

Look at the equestrian society and roadkill 99 site that were created via Plone at the Hotspot.

Suggestions for website:

a guide for residents about who looks after what trails?

membership prices on the website

We want to reach a wider audience, the community, and our members

Westway Bike Lane

The situation outcome was as good as it could’ve been. The road will be ‘shared’ – cyclists on the road surface. There will not likely be any new or altered sidewalks as part of the deal. Parking will be allowed on the ‘downhill’ side. We need to ensure that bylaw enforcement absolutely does tow cars that are parked on the non-parking side. We need an education program about what a shared roadway means.

Treasurers Report

We spent \$18,000 toward RPT.

Don Ross School Project update

STS was working with students at improving the approach to the Kingswood overpass. The student day was cancelled because there would not be sufficient student attendance. DoS is working through problems with CN. Bob anticipates work to be done in April.

Cap College

The cap college students will work on a trail project that is part of the triathlon route.

Discussion:

Test of Metal

We will need people to step up and help out; Bob will solicit. It's a lot of work but fun. Hopefully Rob will help us again.

2010 Projects

- Hoping to move ahead with Commercial Way to Brennan Park. Early estimates were at \$40,000. Would require DFO approval. Would link Discovery Trail and Corridor Trail. We should keep moving ahead with it.
- Improvement of Valleycliffe trail connections to the valley and downtown area. There are some steep hills and eroded trails, a limited number of trails and difficult to negotiate. We need some people with vested interest in Valleycliffe. One of the trails that could be upgraded is Hunter Trail. Also the back side of the Mamquam Blind Channel, there is a blocked trail access as the rough trail climbs uphill. It appears to be an issue between DoS and the landowners.
- Graham will talk with Eric Anderson, and perhaps investigate what is going on with trail access. Karin suggests also talking with the owner perhaps. And Councillors.

Ray Peters Trail – dirt bike damage on upgraded trail

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Don't be a Dark Statistic

- email campaign about changing mindset to being visible at night time, also go through schools and newspaper, other clubs (eg SVEA) could sell reflective items. Bob says, it's a year round thing, just like barbecuing!

Coho Park trail blockage

- The approach from the end of Parkway, up the Coho Trail, seems to include a 'finger' of private property with private ownership (Wafler), who are no longer willing to allow public trespass on the trail.
- We need to provide a letter to the District and strong advocacy about the high value of this trail.

Doug mentioned that there should not be a road constructed uphill of Meighan Creek to maintain subsurface flows that feed East Meighan Cr. It's also an endangered area.

Leskies Crossing Access – James King

Ongoing dialogue with Jimmy King, re eagle run area next to reserve. He's amenable to maintaining access through his land. He feels that there should be some kind of fencing to keep people off his land (could erect a fence with volunteer labour). Will the District want to get involved in this, without access across the reserve land.

Bob has heard that Squamish Nation would like to deal with trail issues all at one time.

Other Business