

Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Meeting Minutes January 30, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Naomi Humenny.

Present: Naomi Humenny, Gary Hicks, Chris Ferguson, Cliff Erven, Ryan McKenzie, Sandra Roberts, Rand Davis, Steven Royer, Liz Royer, Frank O'Grady, Laura Duncan, Susanne Baldwin, Heather van der Hoop, Matt Thompson, Dave Hale, and Brad Carrier

Regrets: Ingrid Musser-Okholm, Mitch Tom, and John Henley

1. Introductions and confirm agenda

Motion to approve: carried

2. Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve : carried

3. Delegations

None

4. Correspondence/ Communications

a) MOU for Singletrack 6 2020 June 10-11, 2020

Naomi read the MOU and explained that the route can be changed if needed due to snow or trail conditions. Frank suggested confirming that the dates will not conflict with grade 6 school tours.

b) Request for Letter of Support for Shred Sisters coaching event

Shred Sisters have asked for a letter of support to use KNP trails for their coaching activities again this summer, as they did last year. Their programs are mainly weekday evenings with one weekend workshop. They will donate \$250 to KTS towards trail maintenance.

Motion to approve: carried

c) Facebook message regarding off-leash dogs chasing wintering ungulates on and around Sunflower Hill

Anecdotal reports were reported both over Facebook and at the meeting. The group discussed possible ways to encourage owners to ensure their dogs leave deer alone. COs would not be involved. As an initial option, Ryan suggested signage at Forest Crowne and Campground entrances that could advise owners to make sure their dogs are under control and not chasing deer.

Task to be completed: Frank will look into signage costs.

5. Financial report

Naomi emailed the report out ahead of the meeting.

Motion to approve: carried

6. Unfinished Business

a) Signage from Lisa Cox for Tora Bora Climbing area

Naomi described the signage. Chris will store sign for the winter.

Task to be completed: Chris will ensure the sign is installed once the weather is appropriate.

7. Committee Reports:

Trail Guide: no update, winter sales are minimal

Membership: Gary reported we have 313 members (24 new members pre-AGM, including 11 more life members). We also have a few new email subscribers.

Natural History:

-met Dec. 8: Laura Duncan explained it was meant to be about tracks, but due to the minimal snow, they instead catalogued plants that retained greenery.

-met Jan. 11: Laura described the workshop on identifying trees and shrubs using a dichotomous key

-will meet again Feb. 8 to sketch or photograph patterns in nature near Sunflower Hill with Birgitta Jansen

After each monthly event, the leader writes a post for the KNPS blog.

Trails:

a) Update from Ryan McKenzie on winter grooming

Searching "winter grooming" on Trailforks shows the groomed trails in KNPS. Naomi received one email that the grooming affected snowshoe options but the majority of feedback has been positive. Short discussion of whether to allow grooming of Upper Duck Pond during period of minimal snow, but the consensus was to continue the grooming trial as-is for this year and reevaluate as needed next year. Ryan also shared that KTS created a special Facebook page for winter trail conditions.

b) Questions about liability: The KNPS does have liability insurance coverage that should cover us unless we are being significantly negligent. Also if someone were to sue they would likely go after the Crown as the KNPS has no monies of significance.

c) Signs

The Great Trail committee is working to replace older Kimberley-area Trans Canada Trail signs with new Great Trail ones. Ryan has been asked to collect photos and locations of existing signage, and asked for help from KNPS members who may see them while out in the park.

Blog:

3 posts: Thanks Kent, Tracking Winter Greenery, The Key to Identifying Plants

Rod will continue editing the blog for now. Gary will look into analytics data and pageviews to see how many people are reading the blog posts.

Horse Barn Valley:

-John Henley has provided the 2019 Annual Report to Lisa Cox as required

-discussion regarding 2020 HBV operational plan will wait until next meeting

-Cliff mentioned that the HBV agreement will need to be updated for 2021

Events:

-as discussed during correspondence

Grant Writing:

Frank suggested that Kent will continue working on grant writing. Matt asked whether there was a list of grants applied for or available, along with a list of strategic priorities and project ideas.

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration:

Chris gave a short history of this work in the park. Kimberley is at the highest threat level established by the province in terms of risk to the community from fire. The province has money to mitigate the risk. Canfor may be involved and would conduct machine logging. The discussion with the committee is still in the early stages, but the focus is on two areas: a small one near Apache/Duck Pond, and a much larger one reaching across Jimmy Russell, across the HBV and west. Sandra mentioned that the city is very involved because logging would affect the watersheds the city depends on. Chris is waiting for the Canfor rep to integrate their proposed areas map with the KNP trails so they can discuss roads and access. Chris suggested that searching the KNPS blog for the "fire interface" tag will bring up many posts. The goal of the committee is to treat between the edge of the park at the city and Matthew Creek within three years to get it "as reasonably firesafe as possible" and with continuous treatments to keep it at that level. The committee will stay tuned to ongoing discussions.

8. New Business

a) Communications protocol

Laura explained that Rod Chapman will continue in his role for now, but would like to hand it off to another KNP member. He also suggests the development of a plan/editorial calendar for the blog, a protocol for replying to emails and social media messages, etc.

Task to be completed: Matt will meet with Rod to chat about options.

b) Election of secretary

Heather van der Hoop will take on this role.

c) Roles for new board members

Laura will continue with natural history committee and will liaise with Gary for invasive weeds. Brad will take on the role of webmaster. Some discussion of social media coordinator role, but will discuss more next meeting.

d) Discussion of how to connect with members and non-members in the community, including those who don't use the park. This conversation will be part of the discussion around communications strategy when Matt speaks with Rod.

9. Interesting Sightings

Gary saw a moose by Apache/Forest Crowne. Naomi saw the prints as well.

10. Next Meeting: February 27, 2020, 7:00pm at McKim School

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.