

Kimberley Nature Park Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 19:01 hrs by Vice-President Naomi Humenny

Present: Naomi Humenny; Ingrid Musser-Okholm, Gary Hicks, Margaret Fong, John Henly, Chris Ferguson, Peter McConnachie, Ryan McKenzie, Sandra Roberts

President Kent Goodwin sent regrets

1. Introduction and confirm agenda.

Motion to approve: Gary Hicks, 2nd Peter McConnachie; carried.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Printed copies were circulated.

Motion to approve: Gary Hicks, 2nd Chris Ferguson; carried.

3. Delegations –

4. Financial Report.

Presented by Ingrid Musser-Okholm.

Motion to approve: Ingrid Musser-Okholm, 2nd Peter McConnachie; carried.

5. Correspondence.

Presented by Vice-President, Naomi Humenny

Email from Megan Rose regarding the Enduro bike race. Province has approved crown land trail segment, so Plan (option) 1 will be the route.

6. Unfinished business

Concerning the Enduro: business is finished; Naomi agreed to send Megan Rose an email to confirm route Option 1, and request Megan submit a community service notice regarding the race as soon as possible.

7. Committee Reports

Trail Guide – no report

Natural History –

New Trail Assessments: John Henly mentioned the natural history assessment for the new section of Shapeshifter trail from Boulevard down to hair pin at the gully will take place at 1:30 on Tuesday afternoon (02 July) starting at the Campground entrance to do the Shapeshifter assessment. Another trail assessment for the access trail to Tora Bora Crag will be later. Note: agreement with the Province was to have the Tora Bora assessment done by 15 July.

Invasive Weeds: Kent Goodwin and Gary Hicks met on Tuesday, 25 June to discuss. Discussed that the three main plants are toad flax, blue weed, cheatgrass (also yellow hawkweed is a problem). Options are limited to hand pulling. Sandra Roberts from the City of Kimberley will had a conversation this week at the city level regarding invasive weeds. She mentioned that in the past, poison was used, but no headway despite efforts. She will help to put together the current status, review plan to update if needed. Will recommend the KNPS be included in these discussions. Ryan McKenzie mentioned there will be a weed pull on Boot Leg 10 July with the East Kootenay Invasive Weeds Council and volunteers.

Trails – Burnt trails upgrade was finished, but not totally satisfied; will re-assess

- Shapeshifter re-route flagged by Ian Binney; agreed in principle; (natural history inventory scheduled 02 July (see above)
- Unauthorized trail poster: printing finished; Ryan will distribute, destined for kiosks and bike shops. Need to follow-up on FB (Chris F. will request admin access from Kent so he can help with the bike-related info.)
- Trail use survey data: no progress (Ryan)

Blog – No report

Horse Barn Valley – No report

Events – No report

Grant writing – No report

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration – John Henly reported on 19 June meeting. Attending: Fire Chief Rick Prasad, Fire Ecologist Bob Gray, RPF Geoff Byford, BC Protection Branch Technician Andre Chalabi, KNPS Directors John Henly and Kent Goodwin

A new hand slashing and piling treatment is being planned for Romantic Ridge and the Lower Army Road. Lots of pink flagging tape has gone up to define a proposed boundary. A field trip is scheduled for July 11th to look at the area and tenders will go out later this summer for work to start this fall.

Plan to burn the Nordic Ski Trail area in the spring of 2020 using a combination of hand and aerial ignition (dropping Ping-Pong balls filled with incendiary chemicals from helicopter). At the same time, the hillside between the Army Road and the Nordic Trails which is currently being slashed will be burned between Higgins Hill and Boulder Trail. A fuel break about 2 feet wide will need to be grubbed from the corner of Boulder Trail down to the Upper Army Road. A tanker truck will need access via the Lower Army Road which may require some small improvements to sections of that road. (Leaning tree removal, possible grading of sections.) Higgins Hill will have the berms permanently removed at the top and bottom to allow truck access from the Park to the Nordic Trails.

Plan to burn the southeast face of Myrtle Mountain in the spring of 2021 from the summit down to the Forest Crowne boundary. The burn will be carried out in a way that prevents the loss of mature trees

Maps of the prescriptions were circulated and discussed. John mentioned that the Fire Chief indicated that Kimberley is a test case for interface prescribed burns. Members are concerned.

Management Plan Updating – Gary reported that Search and Rescue had some minor comments; Kent will send to City soon for their comments.

8. New Business

Succession planning for President – Discussion: membership declining. New people in the community see KNP as a recreational site only. Membership list review came up. Chris suggested a FB post requesting suggestions; Naomi will contact farmers market to inquire about have a KNPS booth.

9. Interesting sightings – Tiger lily and Columbia lily identified by Naomi

10. Next meeting – Thursday, 26 Sept McKim Schools

Have a Great Summer!!

Meeting adjourned at 20:20 hours.