



**Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members**

Jean Paul Molgat, President  
Craig Thur, Secretary  
Jan Downing, Director  
Stuart Hamilton, Director  
Dermot Flynn, Past President

Jonathan Kerr, Vice-President  
Adam Greenwood, Treasurer  
Leslie Gomm, Director  
Sarah Murray, Director

**Club Management**

Jan Polivka, Operations

Ben Poudou, Club Manager

**Regrets:** Julie McVICAR, Director

**1. Call to Order**

Jean Paul called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**2. Approval and Additions to Agenda**

Jean-Paul requested that a discussion about the Celebration of Life for Miriam be added to the Agenda as item 12. Sarah Murray moved to approve. All in favour. Carried.

**3. Review and approval of the draft Minutes from April 8<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Review and approval of the draft Minutes from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Leslie Gomm moved to approve. All in favour. Carried.

## Updates

### 4. Land Tenure Information from Greg Fekete

Lawyer and WCCSC member Greg Fekete provided a conversational update to the board during which the following information was conveyed:

- WCCSC currently has License of Occupation over the ski trails during the skiing season.
- License of Occupation is the weakest form of land tenure;
- WCCSC has a lease with Atco/Yukon Energy for the trails on the land owned by Atco/Yukon Energy;
- The ski trails also cross land in Raven's Ridge that is owned privately for residential development however. To date, the developers and residents of Raven's Ridge has been supportive of having the ski trails in the area as they enhance the residential area;
- The boundary in the area near the 10km Trail and the Alaska Highway appears to be secure;
- The Dog Parking Lot and trails on Kwanlin Dun First Nation land appear to be secure as Kwanlin Dun is supportive of having a shared trail network;
- The Crown land that comprises most of the trail network is covered by mining claims owned by Coyne & Sons. Coyne & Sons has always been supportive of WCCSC and given the current aversion to sub surface mining development within Whitehorse City limits this land is unlikely to be developed however the trails at the extreme southern end of the trail system near the Copper Haul Road could be at risk of future development in some form because these parcels of land have terrain that is most developable.

Greg Fekete suggested that WCCSC explore the following:

- Purchasing the Atco/Yukon Energy Land and Dog Parking Lot and transfer to the City of Whitehorse and gaining title with a long term lease;
- Obtaining lasting sustainable tenure to the trail network on Crown land should be the goal;
- Getting the Yukon government to transfer the Crown lands to the City of Whitehorse and then entering into a long term lease with the City of Whitehorse to gain tenure with a restrictive covenant for development and a waiving of any property taxes. There would have to be considerable thought and foresight given to a restrictive covenant however because WCCSC would not want to restrict development that would be to the benefit of WCCSC such as additional huts and other structures.
- Tenure over the stadium area would be desirable

Greg Fekete encouraged the board of directors of WCCSC to begin a conversation with Yukon Government to discuss WCCSC securing the trail network because the time has never been better given the size of the membership of WCCSC for WCCSC to be proactive in securing lasting tenure over the trail network.

The case in favour of long term preservation of the land and trail network for the seasonal purpose of cross country skiing is strong from a sport, economic and community health perspective.

Greg Fekete did however caution WCCSC about moving towards City or Territorial Park status for the land because this may be too restrictive for what is in the best interested of WCCSC and its maintenance and development of the trail network.

Jean Paul Molgat said he would begin by contacting Atco/Yukon Energy locally to start a discussion about buying the parcel of land they own.

Jean Paul will also arrange to meet again with Minister of Sport and Recreation John Streiker.

## 5. Board Committee Updates

*Note\* During the Strategic Planning Implementation meeting on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the board members leading the **Strategic Plan Action Items** were determined.*

A through K below are the Strategic Plan Action Items.

At this board meeting updates were provided for the following Action Items: **D, E, G, H, I and K.** The reported updates are in **blue font**:

**A. Action Item:** Work with under-represented communities to explore ways that the club can provide an inclusive, respectful, barrier free and welcoming environment for everyone.  
**Co-Leads:** Jan Horton and Julie McVicar with Adam Greenwood.

No update was provided at this meeting.

**B. Action Item:** Develop and implement a volunteer recruitment, orientation/training, human resources and recognition strategy.  
**Lead:** Jan Horton

No update was provided at this meeting.

**C. Action Item:** Work with Cross Country Yukon to plan for and develop the capacity needed to effectively host competitive racing events such as Nationals, and to prepare for the 2027 Canada Winter Games.  
**Lead:** Jonathan Kerr with Stuart Hamilton, Sarah Murray and Julie McVicar.

No update was provided at this meeting.

**D. Action Item:** Develop an asset management strategy to facilitate a transition to equipment that optimizes development and management of the trail network while also reducing staffing, operational and environment costs.  
**Lead:** Jan Polivka with Adam Greenwood and Jan Downing

**Update:** Jan Downing informed the board that the Lotteries Application had been submitted for 80% funding of a new Pisten Bully.

A Community Development Fund (CDF) proposal for 50% funding of a new PB has also been submitted.

Between the CDF proposal and the Lotteries Application there is therefore a chance to get 100% funding for a new Pisten Bully. These funding bodies do communicate with each other so there will not be in excess of 100% funding provided.

Jan also informed the board that if a new Pisten Bully is purchased and delivered this year, the old Pisten Bully will be housed in the city of Whitehorse cold storage building at the south end of the Mt. McIntyre building complex.

**E. Action Item:** Work with Biathlon Yukon, Sport and Recreation Brank of the Yukon Government, CCY and City of Whitehorse and others to explore the feasibility of integrating the sport of biathlon with our organization.

**Lead:** Jean-Paul Molgat with Leslie Gomm.

**Update:** A meeting was held between Zoe Morrison of Stantec, Biathlon course/facilities expert Max Saenger, Jan Polivka, Grant Abbott, Jean Paul Molgat and Leslie Gomm. Zoe Morrison now has the information required to produce a thorough report for Biathlon Yukon.

**F. Action Item:** Work with membership, government and environmental organizations to assess our current environmental footprint before developing a long term climate change policy and plan.

**Lead:** Leslie Gomm with Jan Downing and Jean-Paul Molgat

**First Task:** Leslie to prepare a work plan. Being able to determine WCCSC's current environmental footprint will likely be necessary.

No update was provided at this meeting.

**G. Action Item:** Work with Yukon Government and the City of Whitehorse toward renewed and more certain tenure arrangements to replace, expand or strengthen the current seasonal License of Occupation.

**Lead:** Sarah Murray with Dermot Flynn

**Update:** See agenda item 4 and the information provided by Greg Fekete.

**H. Action Item:** Conduct a comprehensive safety assessment of the trail system, equipment and the Chalet, including operations and programs and implement identified recommendations to improve or enhance safety.

**Lead:** Jonathan Kerr with Craig Thur, Ben Poudou and Jan Polivka.

**First Task:** Meet with Mike Kramer and request a written proposal for the development of a Health and Safety Plan.

**Update:** Mike Kramer has been in contact with the committee and he is continuing work on his Health and Safety Plan.

**I. Action Item:** Continue the transition toward and implement policy-based governance.

**Lead:** Jean-Paul Molgat with Jonathan Kerr, Bengt Pettersson and Fraser Pearce

**First Task:** Ongoing process and on Agenda of all upcoming board meetings.

**Update:** A board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> to continue policy review with Operational Polices being next on the list of policies to review, amend and approve.

**J. Action Item:** Work with Cross Country Yukon to formalize roles, responsibilities, timelines, communications and joint planning protocols and other relevant matters.

**Lead:** Jean-Paul Molgat with Leslie Gomm

**First Task:** Committee meeting and meeting with CCY.

No update was provided at this meeting.

**K. Action Item:** Develop a staff retention, recruitment and training plan to ensure WCCSC continues to have the professional capacity needed to meet the current operational needs and to achieve strategic goals.

**Lead:** Craig Thur with Adam Greenwood and Sarah Murray.

**Update:** New manager's contracts have been signed. Details of the benefit package are still being worked out.

## **Standing Items**

### **6. Financial Reporting**

**- Adam**

There are not any surprises. WCCSC has had a very strong year financially and a surplus of \$167 000.00 is forecast.

### **7. Club Manager's Report**

Ben prepared and provided the board with a written report informing the board about club memberships and day pass totals and event, programming, staffing updates and a summary of the year end survey which received a response from approximately 500 WCCSC members.

Dermot suggested having a board meeting dedicated to discussing the survey results and determining what suggestions should be implemented along with the when and how.

Ben asked the board if WCCSC should post trail reports from other Yukon cross country ski areas such as Marsh Lake and Log Cabin. The board agreed that as long as the people who looked after these other skiing areas were agreeable then the board had no objection.

## **8. Operations Manager's Report**

Jan prepared a written report for the board.

Jan informed the board that the City of Whitehorse is currently reviewing the Mt. McIntyre complex area with a feasibility study about building a structure for the purpose of consolidation for Mt. McIntyre user group storage.

## **9. President's Report**

**Jean Paul**

Jean Paul and Jan Polivka met with Jane Koepke of the City of Whitehorse about the current feasibility study of a structure for the Mt. McIntyre complex and stadium area.

Jean Paul informed the board that WCCSC does currently have a leasing agreement with the City of Whitehorse for the stadium.

The Northern Huts and Wayweavers groups wish to address the WCCSC board and present a proposal for the development of a hut on the Fraser Loop. May 20<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of the policy meeting was suggested.

Jean Paul would like the HR committee to meet with the managers about summer projects.

Suggested that the next board meeting could be at the club either in the waxroom or outside.

## **Discussion and Decision Items**

### **10. Selwyn's Loop Development**

Maps produced for the Biathlon Feasibility Study show potential to access the Selwyn's Loop ski trails for early and late season skiing via the construction of a road in from Raven's Ridge. Should WCCSC taken the initiative to develop this area?

Jan Polivka informed the board that the Selwyn's Loop trails receive on average only about 1 to 2 cms more snow than the Mt. McIntyre complex area and therefore it may be more beneficial over the long term to develop trails at higher elevation.

Leslie Gomm suggested that WCCSC should initiate our own feasibility study with a large scope covering land tenure, climate change trail access, structures etc...Jean Paul suggested that this discussion about a "grand vision" should be the focus of another meeting and that since our License of Occupation expires in 2022, now is the time to work towards long term secure land tenure.

## 11. Snowmaking

Jan Downing asked the board to consider how we are to proceed with snowmaking in the fall of 2021.

In summary:

- CCY wants to make snow for early season training;
- WCCSC has provided manpower and has paid these workers and has then invoiced CCY;
- WCCSC has donated Jan Polivka's time and the operational costs of the Pisten bully to move the man made snow;
- CCY understands that WCCSC does not have to make snow.
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Discussion resulted in the decision that CCY should be asked to investigate hiring contractors to make snow in the fall of 2021. WCCSC will still use the Pisten Bully to move the snow.

## 12. Celebration of Life for Miriam

There is a Celebration of Life for Miriam at mount Lorne Community Centre on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Jan Downing moved that WCCSC approve a \$1000.00 donation to this memorial event. All in favour. Carried.

**Adjournment:** The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm

**Next Policy Review Meeting:** Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 \_Northern Huts\_ Wayweavers \_Policy  
**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.