Draft Minutes ACC – VI executive Meeting

Scheduled for Wednesday 17 March 2020

*Virtual meeting in the time of Covid 19, carried out by email over several days*

 **1**. **Adoption of the agenda** No objections recorded by email

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the executive meeting 21 January 2020** No objections recorded by email

**3. Matters arising from minutes:** *Catrin, Kathy*

* Further feedback from organisations re donations: Catrin: I have heard from almost all the organisations we donated to (including a very nice letter from Barry at FMCBC, circulated before the AGM). Most are hard copy so I have them ready to share at our next face to face event. With Janelle’s work featuring one organisation each newsletter, and the info up on our website, I’m pleased with the progress in this goal of building more relationships with these and future organisations. Work in progress.
* IBA opt-in form update: Kathy: Going well. Will be ready to go for whenever the bushwhacker annual is ready. Depending on when that is I may have to hand this off to another member of the communications team.

**4. Finances update** *Catrin, Garth*

Catrin: After a lot of thinking about how best to handle the large amounts of money flowing through the club’s account for things like ski camps, summer camp etc., we have decided to open a new account called ‘ACC programs’ to act as a holding account. Access to this account will be given to asmall number of people on a needs basis. Jeff Beddoes has access for summer camp money. The goal is to limit the transactions going through the treasurer, as each program organiser is responsible for the full accounting (income and expenses) of their event. Garth can explain more as this evolves.

Garth: current financial status:

* February 29, 2020 - Chequing Account Balance - 39,355.09
* March 31, 2020 - Chequing Account Balance (unreconciled) - 28,431.29
* March Inflows - (2,484.50)
* March Outflows - (13,408.94)
* Summer camp 2019 - 3 refund cheques cashed; one outstanding (to Jeff Ward)

Garth

**5***.* **Hišimy̓awiƛ hut report** *Chris*

Due to COVID-19 the Hut is now closed until at least June 13, 2020.

Hut Committee met on March 11, 2020. Highlights:

* 2020 Hut budget set. Projected gross revenue $34,000 (will need to be revised in light of COVID-19).
* 2020 upgrades will focus on electrical system, signs and solid deck railing.
* 2019 Annual Report was submitted to the province. Province is happy with it. Huge thanks to Colleen for all her work on this.
* Road:
	+ Province would consider maintaining Marion Creek FSR if the area was designated a "High Value Recreation Site". We must start to collect data on use, surveys etc and submit to the province for them to consider reclassifying the site to “High Value”.
	+ Gary Croome would like to organize a road crew to help fill potholes, clear out waterbars etc.
* Cobalt Lake Trail:
	+ Highest trail hazard is crossing the lake outlet. We discussed installing a bridge to address this safety issue. Gary to look further into it. Might be a fundraising ask.
	+ Some minor trail work may happen in 2020, mainly at spots that are eroding. Long-term goal is to have a trail engineer design a route up.
	+ People interesting in helping with trail or road work should contact Gary at huts@accvi.ca
* Hut Custodian Program is being well used. Good balance right now. Hut stewards are up there most weekends and some weekdays. No real need to recruit more stewards at the moment.
* Fall heli resupply tentatively scheduled for Oct 4 (might have a spring one if gas is needed for the generator).
* February's occupancy rate was 60%. Based on occupancy rates, Hišimy̓awiƛ is one of the ACC's most popular huts.
* We need a project lead for electrical system upgrades (e.g. add more batteries). Anyone?
* There is still a long list of little tasks to do at the hut. If you’d like to help then please contact huts@accvi.ca

**6. Report from education coordinators** *Alois*

We have two courses/workshops currently scheduled, both offered by IAG:

* Crevasse Rescue (25 April): offered by IAG
* Intro to Rock (4 May classroom & 12-14 June at Crest Creek): 12 June technical instruction offered by IAG

In communication with IAG over whether Crevasse Rescue will be cancelled, but it is likely. If IAG cancels, participants will be offered credit/refunds. If ACC cancels, we may need to refund participants if IAG does not. Currently waiting until

Still hopeful that Intro to Rock won't’ have to be cancelled, but definitely possible.

In discussion with potential leaders for Intro to Steep Snow, which would take place in June, but it’s likely that they’ll be hesitant to post a trip until the current COVID-19 situation is resolved.

In summary: the education portfolio might be pretty sparse this year due to COVID-19!

**7. Summer Camp 2020**

· Update on 2020 plans and registrations*Liz*

Status of the camp will depend on the evolution of pandemic restrictions

· Review and adoption of the Family Week policy *Catrin, Derek, Jeff*

See first attachment at the end.

**8. Access and environment** *Barb*

 Mosaic gate changes: Beauforts gate accesses now open on the weekend from east (Buckley Bay) & on occasion from west (CX 91).

 Gate map uses icons. Cameron Connector icon is hidden under Loon Lake ( always closed). Asking their techs to improve that.

 Note east gates i.e. Comox Lake are open Friday to Sunday. No night closures.

 Mosaic has signed an access agreement with “Island Rangers” who will have 24 7 access in return for monitoring activities. Only in effect now for “eastern section.” Applications & information at:

https://islandrangers.ca

 RDN: Joan Michel, retiring as Parks & trail coordinator RDN this week. No replacement for her position at this time.

 These are notes from Joan to Judy Carlson:

 Horne Lake Trail ( precontact connector from Horne lake to Port Alberni) will commence this summer.

 Concern about Arrowsmith CPR Trail currently being threatened again by harvesting in the old growth. Joan thinks a media campaign is needed.

 ACRD: Heather Zenner who has been our contact regarding parks & trails has taken another position with the rd & map tech, Lori Wilson has retired. Both very supportive contacts, too bad.

 Langford City parks include many urban destinations near Victoria. Survey available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Langford-parks-and-rec>

**9. Equipment storage** *Mike with Peter*

Peter Morgan is the new storage manager for climbing gear. Centralizing gear storage in one place (such as Swan Lake) has been proposed to simplify record keeping and safe storage. As there are a number of logistical and access issues to work out, it is suggested that this idea be tabled until regular meetings can resume. Noted that the current helmets should be retired, and either replaced or discontinued as available equipment. Our current model mostly seems to work well, thanks Peter for taking on the climbing gear in town, that’s a big help. Mike continues to do a wonderful job with the other gear, though I know it’s not the most convenient location for city folk. And I also know Cedric would like to pass on storage of the exhibit boards that we use at BMFF etc., so it would be nice to find a solution to that too. (Catrin)

10. **Communications**  *Janelle*

-Adobe inDesign has a steeeeeeep learning curve, but was really fun to use. Looking forward to working with all of you on future newsletter issues!

-I would **warmly welcome any ideas, comments, questions or suggestions** for future issues. Anything, really!

-Catrin suggested interviewing **Phil Stone** about his work with the **Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee** for the next “**Landscape View**” column. I have in mind to contact the Ramblers, CDMC, and VI Avalanche Bulletin for future columns. Any other suggestions?

-Catrin suggested asking **Ancient Forest Alliance** for an article about their work for the column we have about groups that we support through donations. Any other suggestions for future issues?

-Any thoughts on which group/person to focus on for our next “**Portrait View**” column? I was wondering if the **Communications Team** would be interested in describing a bit more about what they do. Any other suggestions or volunteers!?

-Also does anyone know if ACCVI has a policy for use of photos submitted to the annual photo competition? I’m just wondering if it’s ok to use those images in the newsletter without obtaining consent from the photographers - that would be a lot of extra work for the editor.

Catrin: Those photos all go up on our website after the contest (2109 ones may not be there yet), so in a sense they are already “out there”, so moving them off our website into our newsletter should not need an extra level of consent. Perhaps though we should insert a proviso in the blurb for the photo contest that all entries will be shared online and may be used in our publications. I’ll table that for Brian

Membership communications- Kathy will be stepping back from the communications membership role as of May 1, 2020. Still available to support and will be helping Josh to take on the majority of this, with support from the rest of the communications team.

11. **Discussion item**: “Summer camp equipment - issues” *Liz*

· Summer camp committee has some questions regarding policy for equipment use, detailed in the memorandum at the end.

Main points from the discussion were that equipment bought from club funds should be available for club trips, and that any trip using the large tents should be charged for them in the same way as summer camps.

12. **A few updates** *Catrin*

· Memorial Fund 2020 process

The application and award process was completed in a timely way under the guidance of Geoff Bennett. $1000 was awarded in total to 2 projects - $800 to Nick Noble for making a film about hiking the VI Trail as a diabetic, $200 to Vanessa Barr for foraging for a gourmet meal from alpine, rainforest and coastal hikes. Since the awards were made, Geoff updated the status on March 25th:

Nick has regretfully reimbursed ACCVI for his recent $800 Youth Grant. His partner Rebecca is a health care worker and will be unable to take time off this summer to accompany him on the VI trail. I told him that I would ask the exec for approval to keep the $800 on the books for him, assuming he restarts his project in 2021. There was unanimous support from the exec for his project. We would still accept applications, as usual, for the 2021 $1000 grant.

**Motion: To defer until 2021 the $800 youth grant to Nick Noble, assuming he restarts his project in 2021.**

Proposed: Janelle

Seconded: Martin

Voting:

 Alois: yes

Laura: yes

Catrin: yes

Mike : yes

David L: yes

Garth: yes

Chris J: yes

Karun: yes

Barb: yes

Kathy: YES

Anya: Yes

Jes: Yes

Liz: Yes

**Motion passed.**

· Mid-Island slide shows *Catrin*

Angie Barnard, who got involved with our section through the Family Week summer camp in 2018, has developed a plan for slide shows in Nanaimo on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Angie has lots of experience and contacts in the event organising field, and is all set with speakers, venue etc. She has also liaised with Peggy, guru of our Swan Lake slideshows. We are delighted by Angie’s initiative and enthusiasm, and look forward to this being launched when such gatherings become acceptable again.

· Cancellations and plans ahead re Covid 19 *Catrin & Martin*

We have now cancelled all scheduled events (except 2 items on the schedule involving outside organisations) and will review the status again in early June. My sense is that these decisions are being made for us as time goes by, and I want us as an organisation to be ahead of the curve of social responsibility, not following reluctantly. Thank goodness for technology to keep us connected and informed.

The Kluane camp is cancelled. Parks Canada is not issuing any permits for the Icefields, only the frontcountry is open.

**13**  **Planning ahead** *Catrin*

· Early April - next High Points – Anya will send it out in early April, and early May to keep our community connected in this way and perhaps use the opportunity to share links of good articles re Covid and the outdoors - specifically the need to put our ambitions and plans on hold. (The main club today has reinforced that). These will include some photos as well. A COVID article link from 26 March:

 <https://gripped.com/profiles/will-gadd-on-staying-at-home-the-storm-always-stops/?fbclid=IwAR2HWGHoBaMT0amGk2L1lwYdmHzWoCezawJBzsUwVlQVZ8PHxsmKgCbjLec>

· Early June - next Bushwhacker newsletter

· Summer barbecue Thursday 27 August 2020: Mike and Colleen will host subject to Covid 19 having subsided.

· VIMC booking for 2021 *(no information)*

· BMFF Nov 29 2020 *Laura*

1. 2020 date – confirmed at UVIC, November 29, evening, one show only

2. 2021 date(s) – A-L is working to book 2 consecutive evening dates for 2021, presumably late November, presumably at a single venue, probably UVic, but possibly the Royal as an alternate

3. With COVID19, there is no certainty that events like this will be able to proceed. We may hope or expect all to be well and back to normal, but there is uncertainty, and that may have implications for ACCVI budget/spending?

**14.** **Any other business:** *None*

**Attachments**

**ACC-VI summer camp Family Week policy**

Every year ACC-VI budgets a sum of money as an annual expense for bursaries to support families wishing to attend the ACC-VI summer camp Family Week. The money available is divided by the number of applicants to determine the bursary amount per youth.

“Families” here is interpreted broadly to include any close relationship between adult and youth, such as grandparent, aunt/uncle, neighbour etc.

* Bursaries are available to youth under 19 accompanied by an adult, where all applicants are current members of ACC-VI.
* Bursary applications must be completed at the time of registration, accompanied by full payment for the accompanying adult.
* The payment due for the youth will be due following a decision about the bursary amount available.
* As part of the bursary application process, applicants agree to take part in a community project, as organised by the Youth and Kids Coordinator.
* It is also hoped that bursary recipients will contribute to a written report for the section’s publications - the Bushwhacker newsletter, the Island Bushwhacker Annual and/or slide show presentations.
* If a refund is due to camp participants at the end of the accounting process, the amount due for each bursary receipient will be pro-rated according to the balance they have paid.

Drafted by Catrin 21 Jan 2020

Some edits from Derek and Jeff

**Memorandum from the Summer Camp committee**

**March 14, 2020**

**To the ACCVI Executive:**

The Summer Camp Committee has some concerns over use of the summer camp equipment for purposes other than the summer camp, and seeks guidance from the Executive. We acknowledge that some of the equipment is ‘Club equipment’, but there appears to be a policy gap over its usage.

This issue has arisen due to the intent of the forthcoming ACCVI St. Elias ski camp, May 25th-June 5th, to borrow some of the equipment. We feel that some of the logistics have not been well thought through.

1. **Potentially jeopardizing the Summer Camp**

In 2018, when the 5040 Hut Committee used summer camp equipment, some of it was damaged (including the dome tent), or lost, or returned wet, broken or dirty. (Admittedly the Hut was a one-off, and many non-ACCVI people were involved in using the equipment). The signature items of camp gear – the dome tents – are essentially three-season equipment.  The proposed use here – the St. Elias ice fields in spring – could well subject the tents to winter conditions and possibly damage them.  In fact, the trip’s own description includes “be prepared for any kind of weather including blizzards!”

Given the timing of St Elias, the earliest weekend for tent-raising and checking by the summer camp members would be June 13th -14th, which is considerably later than usual.  If the dome tent or poles are damaged, e.g. by high winds, there would not be adequate time to mend or replace before the summer camp. Also, all other equipment used would need to be cleaned, dried, checked, inventoried, and replaced if necessary, in the 2.5 weeks before the start of summer camp. This could be a budgetary burden, and would be a burden on SCC members’ time and resources at a very busy time of year. *(We absolutely feel that everything would need to be checked before flying into Grizwold).*

1. **Potentially jeopardizing our equipment storage arrangement**

Allowing members to use the summer camp equipment for their personal Club trips sets a precedent. How can we say ‘Yes’ for St Alias and deny the usage to another group later in the year or next year? It’s our understanding that our gracious equipment custodian is not expecting different groups to be coming and going on his property, along with the added traffic of the SCC to oversee these transactions. If the equipment is for general use in the section, then we may well need to find a new custodian.

1. **Rental policy gap**

Although the camp gear was used to assist in the 5040 hut construction, that was a one-off to help a Club-wide project.  In contrast, the St Elias request is about letting camp gear be used by a club member for a personal club trip.  Carrying this to a logical conclusion, this would initiate the transformation of the status, purpose and use of the camp gear from a dedicated supply of equipment for the Club’s annual camps to an available supply of equipment for personal use. Unlike other Club equipment, no rental costs have been assigned to the summer camp equipment.

Any use of gear results in both normal wear and tear and possible loss and damage.  Just as other Club equipment is for rent (not free for the taking), if any camp gear were to be let out for use, it likewise should be for rent, not for free.  If a pair of crampons is ( at a guess) $5, then $500 for a dome tent might be reasonable.  Also, because of the chance of loss or damage (especially the dome tents), the need and fairness for a sizable deposit could also be made. All this would require someone to take on the task of rentals person, something our current custodian is not prepared to do.

1. **Level of Care**

From the outset, the Summer Camp Committee has given considerable time, and organized work parties, to check, repair, clean, dry, sanitize and replenish every item of camp gear – large and small; before camp and after camp; each year and every year.  It would be hard to imagine that this level of care would be maintained if the camp gear became available for general (or even once in a while) use by Club members.

Respectfully submitted for your discussion and guidance,

Liz Williams

On behalf of the Summer Camp Committee and the Summer Camp Gear Custodian.