

# Wells Gray Outdoors Club

General Meeting minutes for  
Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015  
at the Clearwater Search and Rescue Building,  
following the annual general meeting

**Present:** President: Dave Poole  
Vice presidents: Shane Petre  
Charlotte Smith  
Secretary: Jen Belle  
Directors: Anne Baker  
Daniel Boudreau  
Aaron Cooperman  
Suzanne Foster  
Lynda MacLennan  
Jean Nelson  
Hazel Wadlegger  
Members: Robert Beaudry  
Wes Bieber  
Larry Colborne  
Sienna Foster-Henderson  
Grace Gormley  
Kevin Henderson  
Katrina Link  
Guests: Elaine Gillette  
Keith McNeil  
Heather Steere  
Regrets: Christine Graham

## 1. Welcome:

Our new Club president Dave Poole kept the ball rolling and flowed into our general meeting with much grace at 7:38.

## 2. Agenda review:

The agenda was quickly reviewed by Dave with two additions made. The mountain bike trails were added as was our guest speaker, Heather Steere.

## 3. New business:

### a) Safety review/concerns:

The construction of the storage building was our latest, greatest and largest possible safety concern, and we managed to complete it safely. Despite having people with little to no experience at times, it was amazing to see how quickly a rhythm can be found among all. I admit to being one of those people and I daresay I left with a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Thank heavens for the patience of others! Back on topic, we were safe throughout the task.

Charlotte would like to see a safety awareness orientation for Rabbits coaches. It is imperative that we take into consideration the possibility of an accident involving a youth from the community. We need to know what to do! Call it a safety drill if you will.

**b) Trail committee:**

The trails for cross country skiing have been slightly brushed, as it did not appear to be quite so bad as it has in previous years. We will need to do an aggressive brushing next year, next summer, and next fall, as a result of this year's,... well, let's face it. We're sapped for extra energy having just finished with a year of mountain bike trailing and storage building construction. So, if you are a volunteer, you will read these minutes, nod, and understand, if you don't typically volunteer, forgive our lack of brushing, because it is always the same faces. We're tired, but diligent this huge year. New help is appreciated at all times. Please, just think that a few hours does so much to help out a volunteer organization.

Aaron Cooperman took the floor to speak about the mountain bike trails.

There hasn't been much activity up there since the spring.

The Ridge Loop was completed in June by volunteers.

Elaine Gillette brought some snowshoe tags to share with the mountain bike trail/hike posts.

For just under \$12,000 two kilometres of mountain bike trails were completed. This was an exceptional price because a lot of volunteer hours were put into this task. The cost equates to just under \$6 per metre. This price will most likely not be quite so attainable next year.

Elaine has mentioned that depending on other priorities, she will add the Wells Gray Outdoors Club to the wish list for a fire crew for next spring.

It will be good to branch out from the Ridge and work on little sections at a time.

The WGOC will continue to apply for grants to keep this project ongoing and alive.

There are some maps of the mountain bike trail floating around, and better signage was briefly discussed.

Research will be done to see if the PDF cross country map on the website could be adapted, or a MBT/snowshoe/hike trail map may be added so that people know where to go.

Charlotte commented that when the time comes to reprint the WGOC cross-country ski trail map a lot of changes and additions will have to be made to include the bike trails, snowshoeing and hiking possibilities. The general map about how to arrive at the Candle Creek trails system is too vague and needs to be altered.

Wes suggested that geo-referencing will be the way of the future for finding locations. People rely more and more on technology for information.

We could put some maps in the warming hut, and even felt pen in the trails on the kiosk up at the warming hut. Elaine may have a portable kiosk she could loan the Club until we find a more permanent solution. We may need to secure it somehow.

In the future, dog friendliness needs to be approached.

Wes wished to forward his thanks to Sabine Cooperman for all of her time and dedication in submitting grant applications on behalf of the Wells Gray Outdoors Club.

Dave commented that he witnessed a fair number of mountain bikers utilizing the trails, which is an encouraging sign. As we get more trails out there and word starts to spread, we will undoubtedly see the numbers increase, especially with the trail network that is being promoted up the valley. Hopefully one day, it will all become a part of a major loop and will bring in tourists.

**c) Rabbits program/coaches:**

Hazel informed us that we had 24 Rabbits last year, which was slightly lower than the previous year, but we had some new young faces, which is always good.

We are hoping that more and different people will show an interest in coaching, or at least helping the coaches. The introductory community coaches program that was to be held at Sun Peaks this weekend was cancelled due to lack of numbers. It is hard to prepare people to think about skiing this early in the season. I have expressed an interest in coaching or at least be an assistant.

The Rabbits program generally begins in January. We will need to do some public relations in the schools before commencing the program, perhaps starting in December.

Grace inquired if the Club was still offering to pay for the coaching course for teachers, if they offer to help out the Club to some degree. Apparently the PAC had offered to cover the cost to teacher and youth in the community in the past, but it was not known if this deal was still current. These students would help at the grade school and at the Candle Creek trails.

A lady from Blue River has shown an interest in attending events here in Clearwater with co-workers and children. There are quite a few young, new families living in Blue River, and they do drift this way for various activities.

**d) Domain name renewal:**

The domain name is up for renewal, and those in attendance agreed that it should be done. Andrea will bill the WGOC when the time comes for her hosting renewal in the spring. It was recognized that Andrea donates her time for the Club doing website updates and tending to things like the domain name renewal. Thanks Andrea!

**e) Work bee results:**

This topic was already covered relatively well. It was agreed that the majority of volunteer hours were spent building mountain bike trails and constructing a storage building. We've cleaned up around the worksite and completed some brushing. More work needs to be done inside of the warming hut, as there is a mouse infestation inside one of the storage boxes, handily located next to some grass seed.

There has been a significant number of volunteer hours put into various tasks this year.

Our cross country trail signs need to be put back out on the trails once they have been repaired. Dave has some treated 2x2 posts for refurbishing the signs up at Candle Creek. We just need to screw the signs onto these posts and set them again with rims. Some of the rims are still out on the trails and need to be gathered.

The excavator is still unavailable, but the operator has inspected the flagged off portions that Charlotte has marked off to be worked on. The machine is currently in the shop. We still need to move the sea can, smooth out the hill climb to the Bend and work on the gravel around the new storage building.

**f) Other topics:**

Dave invited Elaine Gillette to say a few words.

Elaine stated how much she enjoys working with clubs such as ours and can appreciate all of the volunteer hours put in by members. We are able to provide something wonderful for the community, and she feels that we try to go above and beyond, so kudos to the WGOC!

When Elaine's replacement is installed, she is hoping to introduce this new manager to the Club, so that we may continue to receive the support she feels we deserve. She thinks that what we do is awesome! Although there is paperwork involved in such partnerships, it is a necessity in today's world. Wes will do the final report for Elaine when the time comes.

A big round of applause went around for volunteers and for Wes for his years of dedication as president to our Club. Thank you Wes! Thank you Elaine, for your continued support to us! The Wells Gray Community Forest has received a grant application from Wes seeking support for the solar system we are looking to acquire for the storage building. He spent time with a

knowledgeable representative and received solid information on the costs involved in such a system.

The general meeting for November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 was concluded at 8:02 pm with a serving of ice cream cake (to thank Wes for his dedication).

A beautiful presentation given by Heather Steere wrapped up our evening. She spoke of her adventures on the Pacific Crest Trail, which included friendship, kindness, hardships, self awareness, and the beauty to be witnessed on this trail.

We give our thanks to Heather for her communications and gorgeous pictures of this trip. This journey was truly an amazing feat!