

Fernie Nordic Society Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020  
7:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting



1. **Welcome** - call to order at 7:00 pm, Megan Lohmann to chair, Madeleine Bragg to secretary. Megan gives instructions for using zoom, acknowledges we are operating on the traditional lands of the Ktunaxa Peoples
2. **Adoption of Agenda** - motion to approve agenda: 1st Sam Sedlowsky, 2nd Rick Weiss
3. **Adoption of Minutes from July 21, 2019** - motion 1st Matthieu Corriveau, 2nd Jane Stevens
4. **Quick social: “What do you love most about nordic skiing?”** Broken into groups to socialize and chat about cross country skiing.
5. **Directors’ Reports**

**a. Treasurer: Matthieu Corriveau**

This summary and the financial reports are for the Fernie Nordic Society’s financial year ending on May 31 2020.  
The club has received approximately \$51,000 in Grants this past year. Total income was \$152,000. Our assets are now valued at \$205,000.  
The club’s largest expenses this year were grooming and parking (operating expenses), registration fees with CCBC and snowcat/groomer maintenance. Operating expenses at EVNC were greater this year due to the extended ski season and paying for snow removal and sanding at the lower parking lot. In summary, it was a great year with the high membership and day passes sold. A note: the RMI Grant that we have been receiving that pays for much of our grooming expenses may be significantly decreased this year due to the effects of the pandemic on our tourism industry.

Motion to receive: 1st Samantha Sedlowsky, 2nd Jennifer Heath

**b. Director Report: Jennifer Heath and Jane Stevens**

**Staging Area Upgrades:**

There was a ton of work done in the staging area last fall and this spring to allow easier organization of lessons, removal of dangerous trees/limbs, the growth of the youth playground thanks to a grant from CCBC; and the creation of a “wedding amphitheatre” near the river.

**Hut Rentals:**

We had \$1600 worth of Hut Rentals, slightly less than last year but we shut the use of the hut down on March 16 so missed the remainder of the season there and so far much of the summer.

**Ski Patrol:**

The ski patrol volunteered and assisted the Community Fun Race this year.

**Ambassadors:**

24 ambassadors volunteered 167 hours this winter, mostly on weekends and holidays with some Open/Close shifts during the week as well.

### **c. Director of Trails: Rick Weiss**

We spent \$11,000 on trail enhancements this year thanks to a grant from Columbia Basin Trust's Trail Enhancement Grant. This included new culverts, grading, crush, elimination of dangerous trees and their associated stumps. We also purchased a new roller to assist in grooming early season and after heavy snowfalls.

We used Mark Feldberg as a paid groomer Monday-Friday and had to extend his contract four times due to the extended season and late snowfalls. ~~We invested \$14,000 in Mark's contract.~~

We purchased a brand new snowmobile groomer for the Fernie Golf Club increasing the safety and efficiency of grooming there; a huge thank you to the Columbia Basin Trust in assisting us with this purchase. We hope to use the new sled to assist our school programs to get out on the snow as well.

Our volunteer grooming crew volunteered a total of 120 days of grooming! Altogether there was 720 hours of grooming done at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre in addition to all of the grooming done at the Fernie Golf Club and with our new partners at the Adventure Centre and additional 5kms of trail along the dike and behind the golf course.

Steve Lala and Dave Heath upgraded the new, to us, snowcat groomer and kept it running all winter. There was a total of 300 hours of extremely skilled labour volunteered in equipment maintenance this winter. With wood splitting and other miscellaneous projects accounting for 100 more volunteer hours.

### **d. Director of Memberships: Micheline Picard**

Total memberships for the 2019-2020 season was 946 seasonal memberships in addition to our popular day passes.

Our early season membership drive through November was very successful; in December membership and day pass sales were very quiet, likely due to the lack of snow. In January our membership sales picked up a bit and then in March a whopping 272 people took advantage of the ½ price memberships to enjoy socially distant exercise and fresh air on the trails. This year we offered the opportunity to our members to supplement their membership fees if they felt they could afford to do that, we garnered an addition \$1500 through this optional supplement.

In November and December there were volunteers available at the Seniors' Centre for card and sticker pickup. This was a successful campaign, but we are unsure if we will be able to do that again this coming season.

### **e. Director of Events: Samantha Sedlowsky**

Another amazing year of events. The Annual Pumpkin Hunt is as popular as ever. A new format was tested whereby advance tickets for three different time slots were sold. This created much more space for pumpkin hunters, meant there was more parking available, and very few people had to be turned away without a pumpkin. There were 300 pumpkin hunter tickets sold.

The first of the full moon socials had to be cancelled due to lack of snow, but for the remaining skis there were an average of 20 community members participating. The lights, purchased through the playground grant from CCBC, were a lovely addition to the night time skis.

We had another increase in participants of the Fernie Flying Viking challenge this season. The date of the event was postponed by one day because of an extreme cold front but with the additional help from Fernie Alpine Resort this season the event was truly a success.

The Community Race was held on the same day and time as the Skill Development Program to allow all the kids to participate. The hot chocolate lap for the young skiers was a popular addition.

The Snow to Ice had as many participants as previous years, but less people claiming their prize at the Hut as had previously claimed when prizes were at the pub.

The events team could really use some fresh ideas and energetic bodies so please please do consider volunteering.

#### **f. Director of Skier Development: Jeff Williams**

##### **Highlights from the Race Team**

- 17 athletes aged 9-17
- 3 coaches
- There was some dryland training with roller skis
- Late on-snow training at Panorama
- The race team practiced 3x per week on snow this winter
- There was less racing than anticipated so next year they will refocus on the Kootenay Cups

##### **The Master's Program is going well. Thank you to Micheline for helping.**

- The program included hikes in the off-season, workouts and formal ski lessons in skate and classic techniques

##### **The Adult Lessons were a success again this year. Thank you Amy and Tara for coordinating!**

##### **Highlights from the skills development program**

- 80 kids in the program (not including race team)
- This year the Tuesday program was up at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre and had more students enrolled than ever
- The SDP ran 10 weeks

Some highlights for our community included Wes Robinson-Shaw participating in the BC Winter Games and Nathan Savage was invited to the BC Development Squad, a first for our club.

#### **g. President: Megan Lohmann**

- Thank you to the Board of Directors, all of the members and volunteers
- We have been working on enhancing our land use agreements and partnerships, especially at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre
- Infrastructure is needed at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre. A grooming garage and a lodge with washrooms are two considerations for the near future.
- Thank you to everyone that has supported the race team, skills development program, grooming and trail work. We are encouraging a sub-committee for the race team to handle schedules, fundraising, etc. so Jeff and Naomi can concentrate on training the team.

- Kimberley, Golden, Invermere and Fernie Societies are entering a strategic partnership to promote and discuss the cross country ski clubs of the East Kootenay with CCBC. With Jeff Williams having been nominated to the Cross Country BC Board of Directors we would like to capitalize on his voice at the Board.
- The Fernie Nordic Society board is proposing an increase to our fees structure. The proposed changes include: a fee increase for adult memberships from \$75 to \$100; for family memberships from \$170 to \$220; and for day passes to increase for single day use \$10 to \$15 and family day passes will go from \$15 to \$25. Student and Senior memberships to stay the same in addition to lessons and rentals staying the same price.

Motion to approve change to membership structure: 1st Madeleine Bragg, 2nd Sam Sedlowsky: all in favour, none opposed.

## **6. Additional Reports**

**Goals** for the upcoming season include:

Looking at COVID-19 protocols and management as defined by Phase 3 to start operations again.

Continuing to work with landowners for positive and productive relationships.

Applying for infrastructure and operational funding.

Increase our volunteer sub-committees.

Adult lessons to continue...we will need another ski instructor.

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

Please consider volunteering in events or for fundraising and scheduling lessons.

The SDP Program always needs coaches, we offer training.

Note: Danielle Weiss volunteers to manage ski rental inventory.

What is your passion, please contact us, let's make it happen!

## **7. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn: 1st Micheline Picard, 2nd Samantha Sedlowsky

Meeting for the Election of Officers of the FNS  
Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020  
8:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting



1. Call to order
2. Selection of Chairperson and Secretary - Megan to chair, Madeleine to secretary
3. In accordance with the Society Act Part 5 concerning the election of officers, the following rules apply:
  - a. The number of directors must be 5 or greater
  - b. The directors must retire from office at each annual general meeting when their successors are elected
  - c. Separate elections must be held for each office to be held
  - d. An election may be by acclamation
4. The outgoing officers are as follows:
  - a. **Treasurer: Matthieu Corriveau**
  - b. **Infrastructure: Jennifer Heath**
  - c. **Director of Trails: Rick Weiss**
  - d. **Director of events: Sam Sedlowsky**
  - e. **Director of Membership: Micheline Picard**
  - f. **Secretary: Jane Stevens**
  - g. **Race Team: Jeff Williams**
  - h. **President: Megan Lohmann**
5. **Are there any further nominations for the positions?** none  
Motion to close nomination - 1st Samantha Sedlowsky, 2nd Rick Weiss
6. Those persons who have agreed to let their names stand as candidate for the 2020/2021 term are as follows:
  - a. **Treasurer - Matthieu Corriveau** - by acclamation 1st Sam Sedlowsky, 2nd Rick Weiss
  - b. **Director: Lead for Infrastructure - Jennifer Heath** - by acclamation 1st Jane Stevens, 2nd Jeff Williams
  - c. **Director of Trails: Rick Wiess** – by acclamation 1st Sam Sedlowsky, 2nd Dave Smith
  - d. **Director of Events- Samantha Sedlowsky** - by acclamation 1st Jennifer Heath, 2nd Micheline Picard
  - e. **Director of Memberships: Micheline Picard** – 1st Jane Stevens, 2nd Sam Sedlowsky
  - f. **Secretary: Jane Stevens** – 1st Jennifer Heath, 2nd Micheline Picard
  - g. **Race Team: Jeff Williams** - by acclamation 1st Jane Stevens, 2nd Rick Wiess
  - h. **President: Megan Lohmann** - by acclamation 1st Sam Sedlowsky, 2nd Jeff Williams

**7. Motion to adjourn - 1st Sam Sedlowsky, 2nd Matthieu Corriveau**