

Squamish Trails Society Meeting January 20, 2011

Attendees:

Bob, Stephane, Vic, Patsy, Heather, Carl, Doug, Don, Patrick, Jasmine, Candy

Guest: Larry Murray - Squamish Crimestoppers

- www.solvecrime.ca, 1-800-222-8477
- Concern about property theft and vandalism around trailheads and on trails.
- Crimestoppers puts up signs on trails etc around Squamish. There are some issues with removal of crimestoppers signs, e.g. at BC Parks.
- Increasing trend in crimestoppers reporting in Squamish
- Larry Murray administers crimestoppers reports and delivers to Squamish RCMP who act on it.
- Larry suggests awareness is the best preventative measure (e.g. signage) and Larry has crimestoppers signs available
- Crimestoppers is starting a parking lot watch program – monitors lots and then gives people written feedback on whether or not their parked vehicles are secure (valuable items not visible etc.)
- The Community Police Station has closed due to a lack of security (for staff etc.) and Larry urges STS and other groups to advocate for it to be opened
- Hotspots for theft are Shannon Falls, Alice Lake, Murrin, Smoke Bluffs
- Squamish has the majority (60%) of tips in Sea to Sky region
- An idea has been presented to Tourism Squamish to pair up an older adult and a youth to be ambassador / crime-watcher in key areas
- Suggestion that STS could ask Squamish Council to formally approve of crime stopper stickers on District trail signage
- **Action: put up crimestoppers link on STS website.** Approved

Reports: Transportation Study Committee report - Carl/Ted

- Transit is shown as strong preference, as an alternative to single occupancy vehicles.
- There has been a strong focus on improving bike lanes to meet people's preferences. Want to make it as attractive as possible when whether appropriate.
- A strong point was made that the municipality needs to tap into community groups about their specific knowledge on needs. Municipality wants community 'users' to identify community connectors.
- Thursday Jan 27 public meeting on multi-modal transport study... go to "shape your future" on DoS website.
- Saturday Jan 22 there is a bus tour of future ideal nodes for proposed ideal transit routes. Meet at Shoppers Drug Mart at 11 am.

Kudos to the District to clear sidewalks and bike lanes when it snows!

Hwy 99/Commercial Way to Brennan Park Trail - Bob

• email from Mary Mitchell

- This project has been on the radar for a few years. STS got an environmental study done by Cascade Environmental. Would need equestrian use considerations.

- Doug suggested a meeting open to memberships of Watershed Society, Environmental Society, Streamkeepers, with STS to discuss environmental considerations and support for the trail. Perhaps Cascade could explain the findings to these multiple groups.
- Some people are sensitive about fragmentation of habitat and habitat corridors
- Cascade has identified a “least impact” option that could be discussed.
- Possible users for the trail: new residential near Brennan Park, sports teams/rec users, continuity between Brennan Park and Business park. Could be routing to future uses and routing.
- Cost would be ~\$80k. STS would contribute only a modest amount, with other funds from DoS, businesses, etc.
- Need to determine why and if this trail is a priority?
- The Multimodal Transportation Plan study identifies a possible overpass or underpass in the future.
- Would business park businesses be interested in helping to fund it?
- Perhaps we could benefit from survey monkey

Updates on District related issues - Bob

As requested – not yet available from Todd Pope

- ***highway improvement discrepancies***
- ***Corridor Trail re-alignment of road barricades from Hwy 99 Mamquam bridge to past the dyke entrance***
- ***Corridor Trail - Valleycliffe: Red Point to Clarke Drive***
- ***Terassen Gas: inappropriate loose gravel on Discovery Trail***
- ***Gov't Road/Brack School and Depot Rd. railway tracks***

Stephane wrote a letter to Council and has received response re agenda.

Valleycliffe Connector: letter to Ana Santos-Squamish CAN – Bob

- Squamish CAN attended in September and there have been many discussions since then. District of Squamish is now working on solutions.
- Bob has penned a response to Squamish CAN for consideration. Letter to be sent.

Discussion: Mamquam Blind Channel - waterfront trail & landowner's Crown Land use application (pg A28 Jan 7 Chief)

- Landowners in the area are in discussion with the District of Squamish and once it has been concluded we hope that there will be reinstated trail access.

Highlands Connector - Doug

- From Ayr drive to Skyline Place, and then to Coho Park.
- This is on the radar, should have ownership issues dealt with and improvements as noted.

We need to keep on the radar new opportunities for connections in newly developing areas, and keeping corridors open and available.

Patrick raises that maintenance between on slough trails (Wilson Slough area) may be needed. It gets worn away by the tide. Perhaps riprap or \ bags that have spikes that can be stacked and grow vegetation.

Meeting concluded at 9:07 pm.

Squamish Trails Society Minutes Meeting February 17, 2011

Attendees:

Bob, Stephane, Vic, Heather, Carl, Don, Patrick, Matt, Jennifer, Ted, John Harvey

Guests - John Moonen & Virginia Bird from Kingswood Developments (Developer)

- A presentation about their Mamquam Blind Channel/Scott Crescent area development: Kingswood + DeCook + agreement with Carney
- Anchoring the development with a National Climbing Centre (5000 sq ft) plus 5 X 1000 sq ft stores (hopefully outdoor rec focused), up to ~390 condo units on the DeCook and Kingswood Properties.
- Developer is proposing a trail under the south side of the Mamquam Blind Channel Bridge, and trail to connect with Hunter Trail, and waterfront walkway concept (DoS staff says this is critical).
- There was some question as to whether the Hunter Trail will be part of the Developer's obligation. Developer is planning on not rebuilding the Hunter Trail. Apparently DoS will be spending up to \$30K on the trail.
- They are proposing some commercial close to Hwy 99, and then residential
- STS raised that there is a long term vision to bridge from the spit
- Access and traffic will be key issues. DoS has suggested that they go up Scott Crescent and then make improvements on Clarke Drive. There will not be any u-turns etc on the highway. Bus will go right in and right out from the Highway.
- Some question about the location of the climbing centre at the Kingswood area – would it be more appropriate closer to the Adventure Centre? Also parking at the climbing centre will be an issue. The climbing centre will be a for-profit interior climbing facility, and the National Climbing Ctr (NCC) will be a not for profit organization that operates out of the facility.
- They will build from the highway inward, so presumably the trail amenity would follow the same sequence.
- There will be lots of public parking demand for water access at the Mamquam Blind Channel. There will also be lots of parking demand for the climbing facility. Maybe some diagonal parking along Scott Crescent will be helpful as well.
- Question was asked: has the corridor trail been accommodated along Hwy 99. Need to figure out a safe crossing of the entrance to Scott Crescent.
- Question about habitat enhancement of the Mamquam Blind Channel. The developer is thinking that they will not do any work in the channel and alongside. Suggest that they consult with the stream-keepers and ensure that they are mindful of aging population's interests (birds, wildlife viewing). They are only showing a conceptual plan at this point, for a non-paved pathway (not a boardwalk) but there will be more detail as the application proceeds.
- It was suggested that a green building and energy conservation will earn them lots of points with the community.
- STS requested PDFs of the development proposal information. Developer does not think they will get a public hearing prior to the summer of 2011

Updates

Hwy 99 to Brennan Park Trail Study - Cascade Environmental - Bob

- Bob walked the possible route for the Commercial Way to Brennan Park Rec Ctr with the environmental consultant. The red-dotted route shown on the report is definitely the way to go, and Cascade will put forward a budget. Would include an equestrian standard bridge.
- Stephane reminded that the trail needs to directly connect with the neighbourhood on the

east side of Loggers Lane. Would need a crosswalk across Loggers Lane and north of Raven. Need to make an inquiry with DoS about pedestrian connection.

- Bob is suggesting that we should present the budget to the Council and ask them how they would want to proceed with plans for the future. Could consider leveraging DoS funds.

Transportation Study - Carl

- Carl couldn't make it tonight. He'll send some links and information to us.
- Open house happened a few weeks ago. Bob raised a concern that the premise of the transportation study is a decrease in the car traffic in the corridor in 30 years.

Report from Todd Pope - Updates on Issues in process

- Highway improvement discrepancies: Jesse Moorwood MoT emailed and wants to meet. Bob and Carl will meet with Jesse about this.
- Corridor Trail re-alignment of road barricades from Hwy 99 Mamquam bridge to past the dyke entrance. All this is in the works.
- Gov't Road/Brack School and Depot Rd. railway tracks – Engineer Jennifer Chancey is charged with looking at all crossings.
- Corridor Trail - Valleycliffe: Red Point to Clarke Drive
- Teresan Gas loose gravel basalt on Discovery Trail. We should write a letter to DoS and Teresan about replacing the material, and propose that they fund us to do it. We paid \$15000 to upgrade it, and then they came in to adjust the line and did not bring it back to the standard.

Discussion - Projects for 2011

Cottonwood Park connector to the General Store - Stephane

- It's currently very muddy and slippery, crosses cottonwood creek. BOATA proposes joint proposal with BOATA and STS to improve the trail. Suggested that we could (opt) lay 4X4s and fill in with gravel crush but maybe not. Suggest landscape fabric / geotextile fabric. Would need permission from DoS since it's their park. It's about 400 ft, 5 ft wide. May be 2 full dumptrucks at \$300-350 each. Funding possibilities: STS, DoS, or store-owner?
- Suggest that Bob and Stephane will talk to Todd to make the connection. This could be a good Don Ross project?

Ray Peters Trail - parallel to Hwy 99 - tree planting buffer btwn trail and Hwy – Stephane

- In Whistler they had an arbour day where they plant trees, obtained seedlings from logging related outfits (timing is usually in the spring – pine, spruce or firs), and get community help to do a one-day planting blitz like an arbour day.
- Would need to get permission from MoT, and would need big enough trees that they are not mowed down, and choose a species that does not grow too high.

RPT - just off right angle corner of Squamish Valley Road, the section in the logged area - Bob

- It is very rutted, needs to have a proper trail bed built and surfaced
- This would be a good project as it has value for the Triathlon

Brush Back Brigade – plans for 2011

- A few suggested projects downtown:
 - o parallel to 6th Ave the dyke is very overgrown
 - o 7th avenue bridge downtown, just west of Eaglewind

Some florists have been harvesting vegetation from the estuary, and it appears that the authorities are onto them and will take action.

Issue

Golf Course trail head and kiosk - parking lot needs grading/ kiosk needs TLC

- There was a complaint in the newspaper about lack of maintenance of this area
- Understanding when it was built by John Harvey was that he would do the capital, funded by 2 companies, and the District would do the maintenance.
- John complained to DoS that DoS needs to get out there and do it. John contacted the Ops Manager to see about this, and get trails maps (maybe from SORCA). Suggestion was to ask Quest if they want to promo etc. – John will investigate.

Squamish Trails Society Minutes Meeting March 17, 2011 ... Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Attendees:

Bob, Vic, Heather, Carl, Don, Patrick, Jennifer, Jasmine, Doug, Penny, Patsy, Edith

Chair: Bob.

Minutes: Heather

Edith Tobe, Squamish Watershed Society

- Squamish Trails helped watershed society to apply to Squamish Credit Union / Van City for \$10,000 via charitable status
- April 13 announcement at 7pm at Squamish Credit Union – all welcome!
- Primarily grades 3,4,5 students have a field trip to the rivers component of their education. Targets about 600 students and is a fantastic program. Thanks Squamish River Watershed Society!

Cottonwood Park

- Stephane has been in contact with DoS Scott Lamont about the proposed trail upgrade. DoS is going to be upgrading the park anyway so it could be great timing.
- Many years ago, Jas Michalski (DoS / DFO) had dialogue with reduced mowing to take care of the riparian area (?). Also there is Japanese knotweed. Edith will send a note regarding this.

Hwy 99 Discrepancy Discussion

- Bob and Carl met with Jesse Moorwood (MoT staff) to review the discrepancies report.
- Some items: safety of intersections, particularly Industrial and Commercial Way are a problem. Jesse said that STS must meet with DoS because these are DoS responsibilities. Members suggested that many alternatives should be explored, e.g. a crosswalk along Commercial Way between the roundabout and Hwy 99. This area (Commercial Way, Queens Way) will continue to get busier with new development.
- Jesse will get back to us on signs positioning. STS noted and J. Moorwood will look at gravel erosion on the side of Cleveland, south end of the Mamquam Bridge, dangerous situations for pedestrians all along and particularly between Downtown and Valleycliffe.
- Corridor Trail should be completed this year (2011) and this will hopefully alleviate some concerns about pedestrian safety and pedestrian travel options.

Commercial Way to Brennan Park Potential Connector Trail Project

- Bob will send the report to Todd that has been prepared and Todd will put it on Committee of the Whole. Then DoS can deal with the priority, cost etc. The report provided by Cascade indicated that the bigleaf maples would not need to be disturbed.
- Edith has talked with a sample of people who live in the area and thought that there are sufficient connections already. Also the fragmentation of the habitat in this area is also an issue. However there are also supporters of this trail connection, particularly adults and kids who are involved in sports at Brennan Park.
- Penny also noted lack of support to proceed with his new trail. Note: subsequent Apr 11) email from member Mary Mitchell also noting lack of support for this trail.

Upper Mamquam Blind Channel (UMBC) Study and Development Proposal

Bob will send our previous correspondence about the UMBC to the planner on the project, Jim Charlebois.

Treasurer's Report

\$8658.50 is our current balance.

Proposed Run of River Project

The executive thought that we should just support SORCA's position. Bob prepared some correspondence back to the proponent to say that we support SORCA's position and summarize what the position is. Membership agrees and the letter will be sent.

Squamish Outdoor Recreation Expo at Adventure Centre

Heather and Penny will take on the booth. Jennifer may be able to come too.
Bob will RSVP to Ian and fill out the form.
Bob will get some draw prizes.

Test of Metal Food – Saturday June 18th, 2011

Penny can look after the ticket booth and volunteers for the ticket booth.
Sue Aucoin can help in 2011 as well with volunteer recruitment.
Bob will call a meeting in late April re the Test of Metal organization.
Need to look at pricing? Also need to ask ToM about volunteers' expectations / hopes to be fed?

Annual General Meeting is next month! April 21, 2011

- Jennifer will not be here for the AGM. She can arrange the ad before she goes away.
- STS will be holding elections (e.g. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary). Members and the community residents are encouraged to come to the AGM and to put their name in the ring. Volunteers are always needed for the positions, and for various responsibilities as well – event coordinators, membership, etc. Please come out everyone!
- Heather will draft a press release for the AGM.

Memberships

Jennifer has done quite a bit of research on online membership.
Jennifer will send Jasmine the desired functionality (ie membership maintenance) for online payment, and she can make some inquiries about what we need.
Doug will send out a promotional email to the members and followers, to renew their memberships at next month's AGM and plug the STS website too.

**Meeting April 21, 2011 – Annual General Meeting
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC**

Attendance:

Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Patrick McNamara, Don Lawrence, Pru Fuller, Graham Fuller, Doug Morrison, Matt Parker, Yasmine Jodrey, Carl Halvorson, Heather Evans, Maren Bruun, Shawn Gosnell

Notice to STS Friends & Members:

WANTED! A VOLUNTEER RECRUITER/COORDINATOR FOR THE TEST OF METAL FOOD BOOTH!

This person will need to contact a solid existing roster of annual volunteers to solicit / confirm their participation at the STS food booth at this year's Test of Metal, June 18th. Contact Bob Brant if you are curious or interested!
Email squtrails-bob@shaw.ca

Meeting was brought to order at 7:03pm.

MoT Hwy 99 Deficiencies

MOT meeting next Thursday April 28th regarding the deficiencies of the highway upgrade related to pedestrian and cyclists. Big concerns are Mamquam Bridge connection to Corridor Trail, Industrial and Commercial Way, south of Mamquam Blind Channel Bridge near KFC, and many more places.

Cottonwood Park

Cottonwood Park meeting regarding park upgrades and integrating the trail considerations / upgrades is Tues April 26th April at 11am.

Commercial Way Connector

There has been some email discussion regarding this trail, whether it is supported and should go ahead etc. The District has already received Cascade Environmental Consulting report (STS decided in Dec 2010 to commission the report) and if the District want to go ahead at some point in the future (near or far) then it would proceed. Now this trail is 'on the books' as a possibility should it want to be considered as a connector.

A lesson learned from this process is that we should consistently confirm our priority projects on an annual basis. This trail was identified as a priority a few

years ago, but perhaps it was not as highly desired when it made it to the top of the list for consideration.

Squamish Outdoor Recreation Expo

The “SORE” is taking place on Saturday April 30th at the Adventure Centre, 3 to 7 pm. STS will have a table to showcase website, get ideas about maintenance and new trail connections in neighbourhoods, memberships, draw (Penny has secured some draw prizes from local sponsors CORSA). Idea: post a volunteer job description for a Test of Metal Volunteer Recruiter/Scheduler.

Brush Back Brigade

There is a good weekday crew, and Bob is preparing a photo album to hopefully recruit a weekend crew for the Brush Back Brigade. The photo album will be on display at SORE, Test of Metal, etc.

Test of Metal Food Booth

Bob has met with the Campfire Grill regarding a proposal (they had approached the sponsorship group with Test of Metal) to work with STS on our fundraiser at TOM. If it proceeds, STS would get the pulled pork from Campfire Grill, and the buns etc would come from other places including donations. The food for non-racers would not be pulled pork.

Penny has committed to organizing the ticket booth, and Graham can help out. Graham will contact Penny.

We need a volunteer coordinator/recruiter for those helping with the barbecue – duties are to phone people and get their commitment, schedule. See note at beginning of the minutes, and volunteer ‘job’ posting at upcoming SOAR.

We will also need the Friday evening set-up crew (June 17) as per usual.

T-Shirts or Hats or Patches

We have explored STS-wear in October, but decided not to move forward. Discussion was revived about whether we were interested in STS wear. The idea of an apron was discussed heartily – ‘a uniform to some, a soul apron to others.’

Capilano University Student Trail Crew

The student group completed a half-day raking project on Ray Peters Trail and reposted signs. Great progress!

New Trail Maintenance Equipment

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved THAT

STS should authorize expenditure for a new trimmer, and if necessary face screens and a wheel-barrow to a maximum total of \$1,000.

Ring Creek Bridge Crossing (Carpenters Son Bridge) – Equestrian Concerns

Yasmine pointed out that the Backcountry Horsemen group did their first ride, and found that the 'new' Carpenters Son Bridge is narrow and has two 45-degree turns, also you cannot dismount on the bridge or dismount and walk across the bridge. As a result the riders cut up their legs badly or are very unbalanced on their horse (if they move legs out of the way), teeter over Ring Creek as they cross on horseback. Bob suggested that Yasmine email the list of concerns and these will be forwarded to Todd Pope.

Treasurers Report

\$7,184 is our current balance. Year-end financial reporting requirements are in the works by Jen.

Ray Peters Proposed Upgrade (part of Triathlon course)

Upgrading the stretch near the Horth log cut next to Squamish Valley Road has been suggested. Scope of work and approach could be to contract a bobcat to create a proper trail service, and re-crush the powerline south to that point. Need to get a few quotes; there has been lots of great trail work done by various contractors lately in town. This work would need to be done in cooperation with Triathlon as it is part of the running course for the Bob Macintosh Triathlon in July.

Clarke Drive area trail connectivity

This is a difficult area, and it will be fixed up as part of the Corridor Trail project by District of Squamish. We could get an update from Todd on this.

Squamish Trails Society Website

STS has lots of affiliations; should we offer that groups can have an affiliation and presence on the STS site. This could be particularly beneficial for groups that do not have or want a website but may wish to have a web presence. Could also add a list of related club links to our website.

Trail Use Code of Ethics

Environmental Society is working on a code of ethics at the estuary edge at the Spit (Eel Grass “chellum” trail), and they want to get societies to put their logo on the sign (STS etc.) to show solidarity. More info forthcoming.

Elections

President and Vice President:

- Bob is stepping down as the President – still wants to be involved in website, Test of Metal, etc. Squamish owes Bob a huge debt of gratitude for his many years of service. We need people to step up and take a role to continue the excellent and needed work.
- Could ask Capilano Collage video department if they are interested in doing a video project, encouraging trails leadership. Maaren will ask the instructor she knows about whether a student project could be a good project.
- Could do rotating chair as a temporary solution. Question was raised as to whether we need a listed President to fill the Societies Act's requirement.
- STS could consider getting a Facebook account to engage with younger folks and families.

Treasurer:

Jen is interested in Treasurer and is willing to continue to serve in upcoming year.

Secretary:

Heather is interested in Secretary and is willing to continue to serve in upcoming year.

Directors: interested people are Shawn Gosnell, Don McNamara, Don Lawrence, Carl Halvorson Vic Drought, Matt Parker, Bob Brant, Heather, Jen.

Resolution: Approve the appointment of Squamish Trails Society Directors for the upcoming year as outlined:

- **Heather Evans**
- **Jen Adams**
- **Shawn Gosnell**
- **Don Lawrence**
- **Carl Halvorson**
- **Vic Drought**
- **Bob Brant**
- **Matt Parker**
- **Stephane Perron**
- **Penny Wilmot**
- **Ted Prior**

Motion made by Carl Halvorson, seconded by Matt Parker, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

**Meeting May 19, 2011
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC**

Attendance:

Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Patrick McNamara, Doug Morrison, Carl Halvorson, Stephane Perron, Jennifer Adams

Meeting was brought to order at 7:03pm.

Paradise Trails Dev.

Auli Parviainen, representing Paradise Trails Dev., discussed the project which is hoping to develop a piece of property in Paradise Valley with an equestrian centre and 83 building lots for housing, as well as 8 km of public trails. They are doing a Facebook campaign, hoping to raise awareness of their project. As well, they will be at the Test of Metal. For anyone visiting their website or the Test of Metal booth, they will donate \$1 to be used for that person's choice of group, ie. SORCA, STS, Equestrian Centre.

Test of Metal Food Booth

Supply and scheduling for the TOM food booth was discussed. This year we are serving pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad and coleslaw and a drink to the racers. It was decided to offer some of the pulled pork sandwiches and salads to the public for the price of \$10 (but not including a drink). Extra to be ordered. As well, we will be serving BBQ smokies and European wieners for sale to the public. New for this year will be a dozen clam-shell packaged green salads to see if they are a popular item. As well, we are hoping to sell coffee from 8:30 to 11:30 at the Civic Centre.

Ray Peters Trail upgrade

There are two sections of the trail that require a lot of work and Dream Wizards Events Ltd has provided quotes. For the northern section from the cemetery to the Horth woodlot, they propose to do the following for \$4,739.84.

- Clean up debris and stumps left by tree falling activity.
- Elevate tread and promote good drainage for a long lasting trail.
- Bring 200m of existing rough single track trail up to Type 2 standards.
- Cap the finished trail with crushed granite and compact tread.

And for the section from the cemetery to Ross Road the following is proposed for \$9,866.08.

- **Create proper trail drainage with grade dip and correct water damage.**
- **Elevate tread and promote good drainage for a long lasting trail.**
- **Install 4mx300mm plastic culvert to allow for proper drainage.**
- **Bring 400m of existing track trail south of cemetery up to Type 2 standards.**
- **Cap the finished trail with crushed granite and compact tread.**

We have a preliminary commitment from SLRD to fund their portion of the Sea to Sky trail for \$5,000. As well, there is a possible \$3000 coming from the District. It was decided to proceed with these two sections, and STS would fund the balance that was left owing.

Corridor/Trans Canada Trail

Doug Morrison asked if we wanted Gord McKeever to attend a STS meeting to discuss and give an update on the Corridor/Trans Canada Trail. It was decided to wait until the Fall to ask him, as we are busy with the TOM final details at our next meeting, and summer is not well attended.

Treasurers Report

\$6,353.45 is our current balance.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

Meeting June 16, 2011
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC

Attendance:

Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Patrick McNamara, Don Lawrence, Matt Parker, Yasmine Jodrey, Carl Halvorson, Heather Evans, Shawn Gosnell, Doug Morrison, Jennifer Adams, Penny Wilmot, Patsy Reicker

Test of Metal: set up on Friday night (18th) and event on Saturday (19th)

- Some early set up by Matt and Shawn – tables, plus if possible will do the paper (Carl), and plastic
- Matt is bringing big garbage bins and bags from Squamish Elementary
- Multiple canopies are coming in case of a 'precipitous situation'.
- The set up crew will meet at 6pm at the Brennan Park Campground on Friday 18th. Jen Penny Matt Heather Carl Bob
- Bob needs someone to come with him to load up at Nesters from the set up crew.
- Jen will bring her step-ladder on Friday night to the campground and it can be stored in reefer truck overnight.
- Heather will bring the banners.
- Penny had some new STS pictures printed, foam mounted and laminated, and arranged on a foam core sheet.
- Penny and Jennifer will split the float
- Campfire Grill gave us a draw prize. We'll do donate a loonie to STS and enter your name in the draw.

Ray Peters Trail Upgrade

- This project was completed a few weeks ago.
- \$5,000 SLRD, \$10,000 STS, plus any \$ difference will come from the District of Squamish.
- Can put photos on the website.

SORCA re possible future ByPass in BC Parks Alice Lake – another cycle route between Edith Lake and Alice Lake

- SORCA requested some support from STS (not financial) which we gave to them.
- likely is BC Parks funded.

Brush Back Brigade Update

- BBB cleared the Ross Road stretch of RPT.
- BBB also cleared Eaglewind trail that was overgrown – took a couple hours.
- Future BBB project has been identified by Squamish CAN for a project they are working on.

Brackendale Fall Fair

If STS wants to participate in the Brackendale Fall Fair it's \$25. Penny is able to be the lead for a STS booth. Approved. Jennifer to provide a cheque.

Government Road, and Elements Area - sidewalk, bike lane etc.

- Line repainting is proposed to be happening.
- Alignment of sidewalks and bike lanes, and crosswalks are an issue. Particularly in the Mamquam Bridge – Government road area.
- Carl met with District staff (Greig Garland) about concerns and suggestions at Mamquam Bridge area. Need to build for the demographic in that area.

Ray Peters Trail – equestrian restriction and clarity

- Equestrian users SVEA are looking for some clarity about where horses are allowed on the Ray Peters Trail. The equestrian users concern is starting to lose presence on the trails due to a small user group in Squamish.
- Comment was made that casual horse use is really complementary from a user point of view, but some different design preferences between mountain bikers and equestrian users.
- Backcountry Horsemen and SVEA are more than willing to help out with trails and hear feedback about their impact, they just need to be part of the dialogue about it.
- Callaghan Valley is doing a trial for equestrian riding this summer, and there will be horse camping out in Squamish Valley around Mile 14-ish near Camp Summit.

Carpenter Sons Bridge

- SVEA / Backcountry Horsemen made an inquiry about possible re-design to move handrails to the outside, which would have equestrian users' legs from damage. Will bring this suggestion to Todd.

- There may be a family river equestrian ride happening in August. Will keep us posted.

Discovery Trail

- Bob and Carl met with Jesse Morewood, Todd, and Sam from DoS.
- The problems are still existing and there has been no progress on the issues brought forward.
- There is a development proposal at the north-west corner of Industrial Way and Hwy 99. Vic suggested that the top layer could be removed and the lower layers are compacted and could be OK.
- DoS has closed the Discovery Trail bridge over Wilson Slough – it has been vandalized / rotted. DoS has no money to fix it. Bob will make some inquiries about possible school project with Howe Sound Secondary School. There will be some wetland mitigation work in this area as well and it is possible that there may be some funds for bridge. Maybe Epic Truss would be interested in contributing, as this could be a truss bridge that is pre-fabbed and dropped in.

Inside Edge Tech Group's Proposal / Offer

- Offering their skill and expertise to work on a project for a sea to sky non profit group – it's a competition, due July 31st.
- The application will be forwarded to members and any suggestions could be brought forward. Bob will also forward to Yasmine for SVEA information.
- Carl suggested an interactive trail management application. Heather suggested a collaborative process between DoS, trails groups etc. to find out how we move in a forward direction for the community, perhaps toward greater transparency and input into community projects.

Treasurer's Report

- Rebate returns have been completed by our book keeper.
- \$6354.00 is our balance.

Community Connectors

A few community connectors were discussed, which have been identified in the multimodal transportation study. The suggestion was made that STS may want to prioritize the level of effort and cost to help these come to fruition.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm

Meeting Jul 21, 2011
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC

Attendance:

Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Doug Morrison, Carl Halvorson, Leslie Tenta, Sara Ruth, Matt Parker, Jennifer Adams

Guests: Ed, Barry from SDBA (Squamish Dirt Bike Association), Todd Pope

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 pm.

SDBA

Ed and Barry from SDBA were at the meeting to discuss the recent vandalism on the Ray Peters trail. Discussion ensued on how we could promote more education on appropriate trail use. Todd Pope advised that there was a bylaw regarding motorized vehicles on District trails. This bylaw is available for viewing on the District website. Todd has sent an email to inquire about the cost of installing 6 District Bylaw signs along the RPT. However, the bylaw is difficult to enforce, as most bikes don't have identification, ie., license plate or numbering system. The SDBA is coming out with a map of the motorized bike trails in the area plus guidelines for trail use. As well, we will look into a link from our STS website to the SDBA website. It was agreed by all that more education and interaction between the various group could only benefit everyone.

Inside Edge

Heather Evan's suggestion for the Inside Edge competition was discussed. Doug Morrison said he would review her email and discuss with Heather his idea of sharing a central depot for various society's to share. This would be a central calendar for everyone to share. The idea of an interactive map was also discussed. Bob will contact James from Inside Edge to see what is required to put together an application for the map concept. Jennifer offered to help with the application.

Brushback

Brushback group had a productive session on the vacant land planned for the Urban Garden project. Some of the other areas that require brushing back are: Smoke Bluff, dyke are near 6th Ave and Vancouver St, golf course spawning channel, Discovery Trail, and certain sections of the Swan trail. Don will look into the areas.

TOM Review

The profit from the TOM food booth was \$5,426.01. There was also \$15 in map sales, and \$21 in draw money. The email Bob had sent out to the group regarding improvements/changes for next year was discussed. It was suggested that some people take the Food Safe Course.

Valleycliffe Trail Work

Discussion on trail work being done by the District at the Valleycliffe entrance. Work is in progress.

Treasurers Report

\$11,468.34 is our current balance. However, there are outstanding invoices for the work done on the RPT.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 pm.

Meeting September 15, 2011
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC

Members in Attendance:

Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Matt Parker, Yasmin Jodrey , Don Lawrence, Penny Wilmot, Nan Tandrup, Stephane Perron, Heather Evans

Guests: David Greenfield (Sea to Sky Gondola Project – Ground Effects)

Meeting was brought to order at 7:12 pm.

STS Gondola Project

- There are about avg 500,000 visits per year (over the last 3 years) in Shannon Falls and The Chief (2 to 3 times the visits of other BC Parks). Avg visit is about 20 minutes – very short. There is captured visitation with the natural beauty but what lacks is tourism infrastructure that holds the visitor for a longer period of time that provides something for a lower-intensity (non athlete) visitor when they come to the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada.
- The previous Chief proposal for a gondola was a great idea, wrong space, maybe not too safe, not practical.
- A challenge with finding a site in the Howe Sound area was the high voltage power lines.
- The gondola would move people up to a higher alpine location, and have them stay there for a couple of hours that will leverage more time in Squamish and make it more of a destination than a road stop.
- The upper destination would be Habrich Ridge – higher than the Chief.
- The base terminal would be on a 6-acre pad, zoning is Resource. Contaminant free. The gondola would go thru BC park, and into crown land area (previously logged) that is in SLRD jurisdiction.
- They are looking at two lift alignments and the criteria include least trees taken down, view/vantage point from the Peaks of the Chief Trail.
- The trail opportunities at the top of the gondola would be about 1km loops that give you different vantage points in various directions. Also, the 'upper terminal zone' at the top would also present opportunities for backcountry activities like mountain biking,
- Ground Effects has a letter from Squamish Nation that says they are intending to work together. Their objection to the previous proposal was the Chief itself.
- Crown lands is supportive

- BC Parks encourages them to go through the process because it could enhance the experience at the parks. There are safety issues, lack of parking, funding issues.
- Mayor and Councillors with Squamish and SLRD also appear to be individually supportive.
- Ground Effects have met with 25 groups, 6 public information sessions. Majority of input from the community has been supportive.
- Base area would have mostly parking: 380 parking spaces, buses etc.
- At the top: some food and beverage, a video experience, daylodge for events, classroom, etc.
- It would be a 6 to 8 minute ride to the top.
- Base area would provide opportunity for trail to connect Chief to Shannon Falls.
- They may apply to MoT for a southbound left-in. But, most traffic will come from the south via a right-in movement.

From a trails perspective:

- 1km grade friendly trail at the top plateau
- They might make a trail connection that would turn off from the Shannon Falls to Chief trail and follow the line of the gondola.
- Trail between the Shannon Falls and Chief park
- Climbing community wants to preserve and maybe also improve existing climbing opportunities to Habrich and Sky Pilot.
- SDBA is doing some trail work and have plans up in the Habrich and Sky Pilot area.
- There is some mountain biking from Goat Ridge.
- They may also look to some downhill mountain bike trails that would go from the plateau area down to Mamquam.

Questions and Responses:

- Intention is for year round.
- In winter there may be some tracked trail.
- A locals pass program is a possibility
- They are looking to do a bus based shuttle from the base to downtown to adventure centre. They would also like to make better pedestrian connections.
- Other rec opportunities may be rock climbing, wilderness camping, forest walk experience etc. They may get some licenses of occupation for smaller spot areas for these rec areas.
- If local businesses wanted to make use of the backcountry area, they could pay for the gondola. They could also get access via backcountry roads and access points to use the area up there – Ground Effects would not have control over the whole area – not like a ski area.
- Likely an 8 passenger tram. It will be a similar technology to whistler gondola from Creekside.
- Need to handle about 1000 people per hour

- Search and Rescue: dedicated helicopter area at base and top.
- At Sulphur Mountain they contract out locally for safety and rescue.

Order of approvals:

1. DoS rezoning at the base – hopefully this fall
2. BC Parks Assessment – one or more years This includes First Nations partnership. Will be a public process and involve environmental impact assessment.
3. Land Tenure & SLRD – one or more years. This includes First Nations partnership.

Hope to be open by summer 2013.

They will likely bring in a strategic operating partner that are involved in tourism.

David:

Request for ideas from the Squamish Trails Society

Request for support letter from STS to the District of Squamish. Public hearing is likely in November.

What is the future alignment of the sea to sky trail south to Vancouver – need to accommodate it via a letter.

Equestrian Issues

- Jasmin has received no communication back from Todd regarding horse issues that have been raised with Todd. These were safety issues.
 - o Carpenters Sons Bridge
 - o trodden path next to the paved Corridor Trail for horse traffic.
 - o surface of the bridge (removal of metal grate material)
- Bob will arrange a meeting with Todd.

Brushback Brigade

- BBB does not usually take into account equestrian users, but would like to try to do so. Ask Jasmin to find out which members would like to help with the BBB. Also feedback from them about which trails they use.
- 3-4 trails are under consideration for the next BBB jobs – smoke bluffs, spawning trails, behind amblepath

Innovation Challenge

STS was not selected for the Innovaion Challenge.

Government Road

- Stephane has documented and reported on lots of the great work that has been happening along Government Road.
- There are also a few trouble areas that are also documented along Government Road.

- Railway crossings are a real problem for bikes. The angle of road and the bumpers along the track are things that could be mitigated.

Corridor Trail Report

- District received grant funding that is going to paving of some sections, and construction of new sections.
- Clark Drive to Chances will not happen this year.
- The District is working on land issues north of Garibaldi Way.

Email Distribution List

Heather is helping with email distribution while Doug is away.

Brackendale Fall Fair

Thanks Penny! New member, renewals, maps sold out, new BBB volunteers.

Ayr Drive to Skyline Place

- Ayr Drive to Skyline Place is a project that we could cost out.

Trail Connections Inventory

- Heather to find out from Carl what is documented in the Multi-Modal Transport plan.
- Merrell Park – there should be better access from east and north.

Discovery Trail Replanting

Mary Mitchell sent some correspondence about this area because the new landscaping is removing some bird habitat. Bob addressed this with Todd yesterday. Cascade Environmental is supervising the work.

Run of River Power Project

- We have supported the SORCA position by letter dated March 2011 since the mountain bike trails are the most relevant. MTB and concerns may not have not been addressed in the process. Bob has reconnected with Mike Nelson and awaits a response from him.

Treasurers Report

We have received treasurers report via Jennifer.

Balance \$6921, plus more coming from Wesbild in September.

Discovery Trail Bridge

Todd has been in contact with Howe Sound Secondary School re participating in the project via the woodworking class.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Meeting October 20, 2011
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC

Members in Attendance:

Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Heather Evans, Carl Halvorson, Jennifer Adams, Don Lawrence, Meg Fellowes, Doug Morrison, Sarah, Stephane Perron, Bob Brant, Don McNamara (8:08pm)

Seniors Wellness Fair

Thank you Doug for taking this on and ensuring a presence for STS at this event!

Sea to Sky Gondola

The drafted letter of support for the project was approved.

Stephane's Work

- CN is replacing the tracks at Brackendale Art Gallery and the crossing further north near the Brackendale Elementary School. The result will be a much better crossing surface for bicycles.
- Bob and Carl made an inquiry to the DoS to find out whether the crossing will be wide enough for the bicycle lane.
- Stephane's letter to be forwarded to Council re Government Road bike lanes etc.

Be Bright at Night

Bob did a broad distribution of the be bright at night messaging, repeating last year's efforts. Bob has already received some uptake in the media and an article in the Chief. November 6th is the fallback date.

Highways Discrepancies Report

- Mick Gottardi has resurrected the highway discrepancies.
- Bob and Carl met with Jesse Moorwood of MoT some months ago. Jesse said they'd check into a number of the issues. Among the issues were the south edge of the Commercial Way crossing. Nothing has been done to date.
- Bob and Carl have been in touch with Mick and with Jesse, to deal with the still existing deficiencies.

Brush Back Brigade

- Thanks for all of your great work, and your continuing work, BBB!

Wesbild

- We got this year's donation from Wesbild, and thankyou has been sent.

Ayr Drive to Skyline Place, Skyline Place to Coho Park

- Contact Ted Tempany or Chris McCrum or others to see how much and recommended solution. Propose through Todd. Would have to be engineered design, probably steeper than recommended.
- One 'pro' to the project is that it's a different neighbourhood than have been done previously.

Treasurers Report

Working account balance is \$6780

Plus term deposits.

Cottonwood Park

STS members met with Scott Lamont re Cottonwood Park planning and trail connection, rebuilding. Could follow up to make sure that 2012 plans are in the works.

Election Issues

Proposed questions to be emailed to candidates:

"Will you support dedicated funding for the trail maintenance and construction, in the Trails Master Plan, for the full 3 years of your term?"

Do you know that the trail budget is X% of the overall municipal budget? What would you suggest as a suitable proportion?"

"Will you take immediate steps to ensure that grant money is sought for the above?"

Candidates' responses would be circulated.

Spanning Trails between the Dog Pound on Government Road and Hwy 99

A couple of bridges have been put up in this area, and in this particular area there is a significant bird nesting area and fishy area. It has been observed that ground nesting in the area has decreased due to dog traffic. The bridges have been removed once, and then it was replaced.

DFO sanctions the removal but they do not have the person power to do the actual removal.

Suggestion to make a media event and ask DFO to participate in removal as a community event, also to get the community input. It shows some leadership in

what are sanctioned trails and what are not. E.g. SORCA is removing unauthorized bridges.

Could salvage some parts of the bridge for re-use.

It is OK for STS logo to be put on the sign.

Meeting November 17, 2011
Squamish Trails Society
Squamish Arts Council Building
Cleveland Avenue, Squamish BC

STS Members in Attendance: Bob Brant, Vic Drought, Heather Evans, Carl Halvorson, Jennifer Adams, Don MacNamara (arr 8:07), Jen Adams, Patsy Reiker, Stephane Perron, Doug Morrison (arr 8:02)

Guests: Mike Nelson, SORCA
Rob Kirkham, DoS Councillor and Mayoral Candidate
Bryan Raiser, Dos Councillor and Council Candidate (arr 7:20)
Auli Parviainen, Mayoral Candidate (arr 7:25)

1. Invited Guest - Rob Kirkham

- *To speak about changes implemented in how the District relates about trails and to trails groups through its newly implemented Core Services Review process*
- *Councillors Race, Heintzman and Raiser were invited as well who are all current councillors seeking re-election*
- Bob provided to Rob Kirkham a copy of DoS Bike Lanes Improvement Report accomplishments and recent concerns, and noted that a copy will be sent to District Council.
 - Rob noted that most of the concerns noted therein are being taken up with DoS Engineering staff.
- Bob noted that there are some changes to occur through the core services review processes that affect how STS will interact with DOS. STS is interested and concerned about it and has not had input to date.
 - e.g. Trails Coordinator Position is changed or ended? – one concern noted by Bob. Rob said that the position has not been terminated, and he does not know whether it will be or not.
 - Rob Kirkham explained that CAO initiated the core services review to make DoS work better. Fewer department heads with more direct connection to the CAO. Part of the re-org is to realign which functions belong where. STS is involved in off road trails, as well as on street bike lanes, planning issues. This is by no means a 'done deal', and DoS wants to receive input from organizations like STS to receive advice.
 - Member noted that STS is a champion for people who are not

- driving cars (non-motorized users) and using roads. STS is all about people moving around the community not in cars.
- STS has had trouble bringing forward this point of view to Engineering that are responsible for these projects.
 - Rob responded that part of the core services review is to ensure that Engineering *does* take responsibility for non motorized users, and that the community is engaged in it.
 - Rob said that there will be a community advisory committee re STS issues, as part of the core services review process.
 - Bob noted that in May/June we need to have budget requests done.
 - Mike Nelson from SORCA noted that lots of mountain bike trails are outside of DoS in the SLRD and on crown land. Some governments are willing to match funds for trails but do not have full funding available. SORCA finds that another critical issue is that there is actually not a lot of land available for trails.
- Bob requested that STS be given an update and opportunity to provide input to DoS regarding the core services review.
 - Rob Kirkham responded that regardless of who is the new Council and relevant staff, there needs to be a sit-down.
 - Bryan Raiser suggested that there is not time to wait around, this work is happening now, and STS needs to get in touch with CAO and staff. Rob Kirkham suggested that instead STS should interact with Council because they are the lead who directs staff.
 - SORCA, STS and other groups are hearing rumours and are confused about what is happening on the inside. There is a lot of panic because it took so much work to get the Trails Coordinator position.
 - Funding trails has been minimal and spotty over the years. Over the past few years there has been investment with the help of grants in the Corridor Trail and Bike Lanes.
 - Bob suggested that the DoS person responsible for grants needs to be applying for student labour re trails work over the coming 2012 summer.
 - Rob Kirkham noted that DoS needs to be ahead of the curve in terms of getting DoS 5-year work plan and priorities, so that when grant opportunities come up we are poised to move the projects forward.
 - A member noted that when involved in DoS processes and projects (e.g. Multimodal Transportation Study, Corridor Trails Advisory Committee) there has been a lack of accountability back to the advisory group, and continuity before and after the plan and its implementation.

- Rob Kirkham noted that Council reports often mention that there has been consultation with STS and other groups, but substantive comments are not included. Rob Kirkham discussed that Council needed to be involved in the process as it moves along. STS members suggested that consultation with community groups needs to be more robust and DoS-led, not just turning the developers loose onto the community groups and taking their word for it. And then user groups like STS get frustrated because the lack of consultation results in wasted and misplaced dollars.
- Discussion about the need to submit written input to Council ASAP to let them know that we are alarmed about the pending changes. Discussion that STS should send a letter cc CAO and addressed to Council to tell them how important the Trails Coordinator working relationship role has been to these groups and that this needs to be in place as the overhaul occurs. If this point person staff role does not exist in the future, then community groups will have to do a shotgun approach with staff and with council and the relationship will break down into whining and ignoring. We will ask for a response and engagement as well. Likely the letter will be co-signed by other trails interested groups like SORCA, and SDBA.

2. Skookum IPP Project (Mike Nelson in attendance)

- STS decided when consulted 6 months or so ago was the STS is comfortable with SORCA recommendations.
- A few weeks ago Bob was invited to and attended a Skookum Power meeting with SORCA and SDBA as well.
- As a result of the meeting, there has been more interest from Skookum Power in action. Skookum wants SORCA to sign an MOU with them. The project will have impacts on 13 trails, and the cost for rebuilding (\$500K). SDBA/SORCA have said that they looking for no net loss and a maintenance agreement (\$ amount in mind but not yet discussed, likely for the life of their water license). There are issues around timing for construction. Also issues around access and trails affected. There are going to be other logging operations happening as well next year (in the Skookum area). The IPP said that they are not able share lines for a number of reasons.
- Bob mentions that STS could use its non-profit status related to trail building, STS would take a 'donation' to hire a local contractor and administration surplus to do the trail work. Skookum would get a tax receipt. The benefit would be that we get to keep a local eye on the trail work. Mike will be bringing this to the SORCA sub-group dealing with this project and SDBA would also need to be on board. This proposition is tabled until January 2012, and when we hear back from SORCA/SDBA if they are interested. Matt will write some bullet points and will send on to Bob, then out to

SDBA/SORCA.

- Might the District consider expanding the boundary to capture the IPP?

Recent Crown Land – Squamish Nation announcement

- The Farside is on Parcel D near the DL 515 lot (Bob Fast property) – MOU to occur.
- The area about Quest is a problem, it is now in trespass.
- Mike is meeting with Squamish Nation Council next week. Squamish Nation has said that they are looking long-term for housing development. Probably not a lot will happen in the short term. SORCA will talk with them about being trail stewards.

3. Highways Meeting

- MoT is looking at Industrial Way and Commercial Way.
- MoT gave DoS \$ to deal with the Industrial Way intersection and will look into a solution and get back to STS.
- Intersection refuge islands: STS to get back to them about how to address
- Mamquam River bridge- width of the sidewalk narrow and dangerous. Need to deal with this as well.
- The issue was raised and highways will not be dealing with the trail on north side of the Mamquam Bridge that drops down to the golf course.

3. Kingswood - Mamquam Blind Channel - on-site trail walk - Matt & Bob / Perry Beckham

- Following Matt and Bob's trail walk with Kingswood (developer & property owner) and Beckham (property owner), Perry requested a further meeting with Bob to express some concerns and sent a letter.
- Suggest that STS respond to Perry's letter to say that we support what you are saying and that trail connectivity in this area is essential & needs to be addressed. Bob to draft the letter.

Bob will forward Stephane's letter to Council.

4. Candidates' replies to STS query about direct trail funding by DoS

- email to members
- posted to our web site:
<http://squamishtrails.com/pages/posts/squamish-council-candidates---position-on-trail-funding-18.php>
- Facebook posting?

5. *Brush Back Brigade – Don*

BBB have been hard at work! Thanks for all the great work.

6. *Treasurer's repost – Jennifer*

7. *Ayr Drive to Skyline Pl potential trail*

- Chris McCrum provided a very general estimate of \$20K at least – wood or metal stairs.
- Brian at Spectrum landscaping would be another person to ask for comparison.
- Heather to proceed with more investigation.