

Wasi Cross Country Ski Club Annual General Meeting April 4, 2017

Present: Jennifer Brown, Terry Shakell, Stephen Hart, Kerry Somerville, Donna Burton, Joan Clark, Gordon Valliant, Peter Taylor, John Roberts, Barb Roberts

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- Kerry welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- *Steve moved to approve the agenda. Donna seconded the motion. The members present voted in favour.*

3. Approval of the Minutes from 2016 Annual General Meeting, April 5, 2016

- The minutes from the April 5, 2016 AGM were acknowledged
- *Terry moved to approve the minutes. Steve seconded the motion. The members present voted in favour.*

4. Business Arising from the Minutes – None

5. President's Report – (see attached President's Report) Kerry read the President's annual report, thanking Board members for their hard work. She summarized highlights from the 2016-17 season including:

- Increase in membership
- Successful moonlight ski and snowshoe events and free ski day
- Successful advertising initiatives
- Completion of chalet refresh

Several problems were also identified:

- Trespassing issues
- Negative feedback on posting of trail conditions (in response we have added disclaimer to website)
- Struggles getting volunteers for chalet hosting and trail grooming duties.

6. Treasurer's Report

(see attached Treasurer's Report) John summarized the season as being very successful financially with increases in both memberships and daily passes. Hi-lights include:

- Revenue up 12%, memberships up 15% and day passes up 4% over last year.
- Major expenditures included \$1,940 for chalet refresh and \$20,305 for new snow machine (offset by \$2,500 through sale of old Alpine machine)
- Revenues were \$16,242 for annual memberships and \$6,337 for day passes which, in both cases, is slightly above the previous two years.
- Net worth as of March 31, 2017 = \$40,860.

7. Web Masters Report

(see attached Web Master's Report). John reported the following:

- after two years of operation, our "new" website should not require rebuilding for several years.

- Hacking attempts have been successfully repelled by WordFence security.
- The GoDaddy WordPress Hosting Service fee is paid up to November 2020
- The Domain Name Registration is paid up to October 2023
- We still pay annual fees for plugins but John is working to replace pay-for-use plug-ins with free versions.
- The website has experienced some performance problems which seem to have been rectified.

8. Registrar's Report

- Donna reported that 309 membership tags were issued for 2016/2017 which is an increase over last year's total
- \$14,646 in membership fees has been deposited.
- More members are using Zone 4 for online registration.

9. Trails Report – see attached document – Steve summarized the 2016-17 season as follows:

- Fall trail preparation was challenging but volunteers managed to get trails open in good time – hope to reduce labour next season by acquiring a used T38 Mott flail mower
- Old Alpine snow machine sold and replaced by a new 2016 Arctic Cat Groomer Snowmobile, which has enhanced grooming capabilities with a few kinks to iron out.
- Maintaining good trail conditions was challenging with the varying weather conditions but overall reasonably good conditions were achieved throughout the season.
- Some problems with availability of groomers especially on weekends but Steve thanked all grooming volunteers for their efforts and he will try to establish grooming teams in advance of next season.

10. Advertising Report

Joan reported that the following advertising initiatives over the past season have been very successful.

- Emails outlining registration procedures and schedule of events sent to North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, East Ferris Twp. and North Bay Nugget (including Community Voices) in early December
- CTV, Cogeco and Kijiji are contacted one month in advance of events to publicize..
- Posters have been displayed in various locations in Astorville, Powassan, North Bay.

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of printing posters containing multiple events as opposed to a single poster for each event. This will be discussed further at the start of next season. A suggestion was made to enlist a number of volunteers who would be responsible for specific areas to help put up posters.

11. Building Report

- Kerry reported that the chalet refresh is complete except for installation of a new back door and door trim. The refresh cost \$1,940, which was under the \$3,000 budget. The donation of cookies by an anonymous individual was acknowledged and much appreciated. General cleaning and tidying is the only work required over the summer to prepare for next season.

12. New Business – A suggestion was made by Club member Barb Roberts to establish procedures to recruit new Board members for next year. She stated that, in her experience, people respond more positively to being asked to help out and suggested using the telephone to request assistance with the Board, special events and other Club activities.

13. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

As recorded by Jennifer Brown

Wasi AGM 2016/2017 Presidents report

I want to thank all of the Board members for their dedication and hard work this season.

We had an early start to the season which contributed to an increase in memberships and day fees leaving the club in a good financial position.

All of this seasons events were successful. After some trial and error over the past couple of years, we have figured out what is popular and deleted the events that are not well attended. The Moonlight Ski & Snowshoes were incredibly successful in January and February and there was a good turnout in March. Free Ski Day saw approximately an extra 150 people show up and resulted in the anonymous donation of 3 cases of cookies. The Guided Snowshoe Hike had a number of people come out with an increase over last year. Unfortunately, Ski Backwards Day had to be cancelled due to weather and lack of groomers. Our advertising is proving beneficial.

The chalet refresh was generally well received and most members appreciated the updated colours, furniture and decorating.

A couple of minor issues with trespassing. An ATV used the trails in late March and we had a couple of dog owners who had to be warned to stay off both sets of trails. The homeless man was asked to leave the chalet once.

We had some feedback from 2 members regarding the posting of Ski Trail conditions and have added a disclaimer to the website.

There were some struggles with getting enough volunteers this season. Trail groomers were sometimes difficult to schedule and chalet hosts were not contacted on a regular basis. The special events had enough volunteers as most were Board members.

**Wasi Cross Country Ski Club
Annual General Meeting - April 4, 2017
Treasurer's & Webmaster's Reports**

Treasurer's Report

The 2016/2017 year was very successful financially with both memberships and daily passes being up over previous years. With our year-end at the end of May the figures below are preliminary.

	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015	2013/2014
Memberships	\$16,242	\$14,134	\$14,858	\$14,569
Daily Passes	\$6,337	\$6,072	\$5,590	\$5,986
Total Income	\$22,579	\$20,206	\$20,448	\$20,555

Revenue was up 12% over last year, with memberships up 15% and day passes 4%.

The Club maintains its financial health with funds available to address long range plans and unexpected expenditures. Major expenditures were \$1,940 for a chalet remodel, \$20,305 for a new Arctic Cat Bear Cat Groomer Special snowmachine, offset by \$2,500 for the sale of the Alpine. We cashed out a GIC to purchase the snowmachine in December but will likely purchase a new GIC, depending on any planned expenditures over the summer. Our net worth at the start of the year on June 1, 2015 was \$43,718 and as of March 31, 2017 was \$40,860.

My congratulations to the board for these great results. While the weather was likely a significant factor, so too were board initiatives such as the beautiful snowshoe trails, the improved ski trails enabled by the upgraded grooming equipment, and special events like the hugely popular moonlight ski & snowshoe evenings. My thanks too to all our other volunteers and our skiers & snowshoers – both members and day passers.

Web Master's Report

Our "new" website has now seen its 2nd year of operation. The "norm" for website lifecycles is about 5 years so we ought to have a few years before we should be looking at rebuilding it again. The site did go down a few times, but I don't know if any users noticed. I was alerted by monitors I've implemented and was able to get it up and running again in short order. It also attracted a fair number of hackers but between its simplistic, limited-access design and the WordFence security package we run it successfully repelled all attacks. The site's performance was unsatisfactory for a while so I spent a few days working on it and it seems OK now.

You'll recall from last year's report that the GoDaddy WordPress Hosting Service fee is paid up to November 2020 and the Domain Name Registration is paid up to October 2023. The only annual fees are the few plugins we use but I've been working to replace pay-for-use plugins with free versions.

Several enhancements were discussed but never actioned. These include adding a "subscribe" function to the website to increase our email list, and the ability for several other people to add "events."

The above reports were respectively submitted by John Roberts.

Trails and Grooming Report:

The fall trail prep was a bit of a challenge this year but a number of people volunteered on the work weekends and a few other days to get the trails opened in time. It is my hope to find a used T38 Mott flail mower to tow behind the Kubota for next year to reduce the amount of labour required to brush the trails.

We tried a new approach to doing the first rolling of the trails this year. We used the Kubota to roll the first couple of snowfalls before taking out the snowmobiles. This is easier on the snowmobiles, not sure if it actually allowed us to open the trails any sooner than normal.

We sold our beloved old Alpine this season to Canadore College. It was replaced by a new 2016 Arctic Cat Groomer Snowmobile. This has been a great addition to our grooming fleet. It has plenty of power to tow the groomers, great traction and excellent steering. The biggest advantage has been that it does not overheat in warmer weather conditions like the Skandic 800 does. One major drawback though, it produces a great deal of slush of the tunnel cooler which collects on the groomer making ice. This can result in less than ideal track conditions under certain circumstances. We are still looking for a long term remedy to this problem.

Despite the on again off again nature of our winter we were able to maintain reasonably good trail conditions for most of the season. The Red trail was probably the most challenging trail this year to keep in good shape due to the weather.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped prep and groom the trails this year. A special thank you to : Tim Collins, Peter Devine, Scott Taylor, John Roberts, Jim Dickson, Tim Kuntz, For all their help with the trail grooming. I couldn't have done it without them.

We did run into a bit of a shortage of groomers in mid to late February. I would like to apologize to the board and membership for this. Next season I will be looking at returning to a grooming schedule that we used about three years ago to hopefully not have a repeat of this situation.

Stephen Hart