

Wasi Cross Country Ski Club Annual General Meeting April 2, 2024

Present: Board members: Kerry Somerville, Tim Collins, Emily-Ann Smylie, Scott Taylor, Martin Lachapelle, Doug Croskery, Susan Weiskopf, Elaine Oshell, Gerri Van Amelsfoort, Sal di Bella and Auburn Larose called in. Regrets: Donna Taylor, Nancy Pilon, Terry Shakell and Ruth van Vierzen.

Welcome and Call to Order

- Susan called the meeting to order at 7.03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

- Moved by Emily-Ann, seconded by Martin.

Approval of the Minutes from 2022-23 Annual General Meeting, April 11, 2023.

- Moved by Tim, seconded by Doug.

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

President's Report:

- Susan expressed thanks to the trail maintenance and grooming teams who managed to keep our trails open and ready as much as possible in a challenging season. She is stepping down as president but will fulfill the two-year term of past-president. She thanked all board members for their work and time and noted the resignations of Terry Shakell, vice-president, Kerry Somerville, past-president, Elaine Oshell, secretary, Gerri Van Amelsfoort, volunteer co-ordinator, and Ruth van Vierzen. The new board executive will be chosen at the final meeting, immediately following.

Treasurer's Report:

- Tim reported our very short ski season—23 days in total due to unseasonably warm winter weather and minimal snowfall—resulted in a drop in revenue. While the bank balance was down approximately \$3000 year over year, our overall expenses were low this year as well and we are in good shape for next season.
- We were unsuccessful in our bid to secure a Trillium grant but there are two more grant periods coming up and Tim and the grooming/equipment team will look at submitting. See attached report.

Webmaster's Report:

- Martin reported the website is running well and he was able to keep it up-to-date as the season progressed with closures due to low snowfall and a flood. Instagram and Facebook usage is up and a group email (for board members) is in the works.

Registrar's Report:

- Emily-Ann reported that annual memberships remained high despite a poor ski season. We had a total of 366 members this year (compared to 391 in 2022-23) however she is worried members will be hesitant to purchase a season pass early next year. A possible discount for returning members will be discussed in the fall. See attached report

Trails Report:

- Scott reported that the culvert installation and trail repair completed in the fall was a success and is holding up well. The warm weather caused the trails to remain closed until Jan. 23, 2024. Subsequent mild weather and a flood closed them again Jan 29. They were re-opened for Feb. 17 Family Day activities and closed again Feb. 23.
- He noted that improvements to the ski trail base would allow an earlier start to the season as groomers would need less snow. Trail improvements and flood mitigation will be discussed as summer projects. See attached report.

Building Report:

- Doug reported the chalet is back to indoor sign-ins and the door again has a window as pandemic protocols ended at the beginning of the season. The new woodshed was great to work with and, because of the warm winter, we have plenty of wood for next year.
- Potential chalet upgrades include replacing the roof shingles, pressure-washing the vinyl siding and staining the picnic table and wooden chairs. See attached report.

Media Co-ordinator Report:

- Auburn reported our Facebook membership is now over 1100 and continues to grow. It is our primary means of communicating club information. She has expanded us into the world of Instagram. Online posters are working well to promote events and it was decided to print a paper poster for the inside chalet bulletin board before each event. See attached report.

New Business

1. Review and Approval of Constitution Updates:

Susan commended Nancy, in absentia, for taking on the review and the final draft was approved as our official new constitution. Moved by Scott; seconded by Martin. Martin was asked to post the final version to our website.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7.30 p.m. Moved by Kerry, seconded by Gerri.

As recorded by Elaine Oshell.

REPORTS

Wasi Cross Country Ski Club Treasurer's Report

Annual Financial Report – September 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024

We are in down in our overall bank balance from 2022-23. This was due to a decline in Day Use this year with our short season. However, operational expenses were down as well. The major projects this year were the woodshed and trail improvements with the installation of a culvert and trail grading in the flooded area of the main trail. We will look at Trillium Grant applications for the trail maintenance, building and equipment improvements for the next grant period.

Date	TD Bank Balance	Balance (GIC)	Debit	Credit	Total	Comments
April 1, 2023	47 743.02	13 058.24			60 801.26	
April 1, 2024	57 382.42				57 382.42	GIC was into ma account
Sept. 1, 2023 – April 1, 2024			22 847.10	Zone 4 Membership 20 640.00 Day Use 2 207.10		Membe in Zone (630.00) Day Use (5 527.4

Major Accounts	Amount	Comments
Chalet	4 046.41	Major Expense: Wood Shed 2276.93 Snow Plowing 768.40
Fuel	829.30	Snow machines and propane
Equipment & Maintenance	279.71	Snow Machine & Groomer Maintenance
Insurance	975.24	Snow Machines
Land Tax/Permits	409.20	Tax and Snow Machine Licenses
Advertising	463.26	Awards and Website
Mail/Mem	284.41	Canada Post

Building Report

Wasi Ski Club AGM 2023-24

- It was business as usual this season at the Chalet, as the outdoor sign-in stand and window-less metal door were both removed. The old door was re-hung, and a nice, clear pane of glass was inserted into the door, letting in more sunlight, and showing members that the chalet and indoor sign-in was back in full use.
- Volunteers and members appreciated the newly built and well stocked woodshed, even though the shortened ski season meant a reduced amount of wood used. Lots of wood left for next season and beyond!
- We will do an end-of-season review of current supplies and add or replace anything, as necessary, although it is likely that the shortened season will reduce the amount of stock needed.
- Potential upgrades to the chalet for consideration:
 - Replacing the roof (shingles) to the Chalet in the coming off-season. Many of the shingles have begun to deteriorate due to normal wear and tear from the snow, ice, sun etc.
 - Having the building pressure washed in the coming year to clean the vinyl siding and considering the replacement of the vinyl siding in the coming years.
 - Staining the picnic table and wooden chairs on the Chalet grounds.
- Thanks again to all the volunteers whose contributions to the Chalet and Club grounds have been both valued and always appreciated. A special thanks to Kerry who has overseen the Chalet duties over many years with passion and enthusiasm. We'll all do our best to make sure these high standards are maintained in the years to come.
- Wishing everyone a wonderful and restful summer and here's hoping for a long and snowy 2024-25 ski season!

Submitted by Doug Croskery

2023-2024 Wasi Membership

46 Single
54 Senior
35 Couple
45 Senior Couple
17 Family A
14 Family B

366 Members

2022-2023 Wasi Membership

57 Single
56 Senior
33 Couple
53 Senior Couple
18 Family A
12 Family B

391 Members

2021-2022 Wasi Membership

78 Single
70 Senior
44 Couple
62 Senior Couple
28 Family A
12 Family B

506 Members

April 2, 2024

Wasi Ski AGM – Trails report

- Culvert installation and trail repair completed in Fall 2023 and is holding up well
- Met with East Ferris fire chief to review emergency plan in the event of a medical emergency on the trail system. Joint training exercise to be conducted next season.
- Late start to ski season due to mild weather and lack of snow
- Ski trails opened on Jan 13, 2024
- Beaver dam rupture and subsequent flooding on Jan 24 which caused ski trail closure for one day while a detour was put in place
- Ski trails again closed on Jan 29 due to mild weather and unsafe conditions however re-opened on Feb 17 for the Family Day weekend with good ski conditions
- Ski trails closed for the season on Feb 23
- Total ski days for the season was 23
- Improvements to the ski trail base would allow grooming with less snow and therefore increase the potential number of ski days. Trail improvements and flood mitigation to be discussed further during regular board meeting to follow.
- End of season equipment maintenance to be conducted in the near future

Annual Media Coordinator Report – April 2, 2024

- This year we expanded into the world of Instagram. We currently have 129 followers. We used this platform to promote events, inform members of trail closures and reopenings, and promote the AGM.
- We had limited events to promote due to club closures, however we continued to promote the events we did hold through Facebook as well. We connected with other Facebook groups and Instagram pages like Tourism North Bay, East Ferris Post It , What's Happening in Powassan, and Callander Ontario Community Hub.
- Our membership continues to grow on Facebook. We now have over 1100 members with more views and engagements (likes and comments) than any previous year. Our membership grew by 200 in the last year. Facebook continues to be one of the primary ways we communicate club information.
- Promotion of events through online posters seems to be working well. We did not promote any events through print media this year.
- Looking forward to next year, we will continue to grow our Facebook and Instagram presence.

2024 End of Season Webmaster's Report

This year the big move forward is that we made an Instagram page, and I've embedded it into a page on our website. Auburn provided me with a lot more infographics to use for our website, which adds a certain visual appeal to it. I've also upgraded the calendar plug-in, and it's a lot better than what it was – with no more glitches.

The look and feel of our website resonated with a member of another club (The Nosbonsing Curling Club) who commissioned me to build them a website. When I directed him to our website, he told me “What you have there... Build us that!”... So I did!

This leads up to my next point... Our long-term website hosting deal that John set up with GoDaddy ends this October. My plan is to set up another long-term bundled deal with both websites (with permission from both sides) under one account to keep on getting the bundled savings.

In closing, I’m always open to feedback and suggestions for our website!

Wasi Ski and Snowshoe Challenge

As an aside, I spearheaded the “Wasi Ski and Snowshoe Challenge” this year. Unfortunately it was a bust due to the conditions. Still, we had 8 categories, and there were enough participants to hand out 8 prizes! I still think this is a good idea, and I want to attempt this again next year, hopefully with regular winter conditions.