

**Squamish Windsports Society AGM**  
**Thursday, November 13, 2008**  
**West Vancouver Yacht Club**  
**7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Minutes**

**Directors Present:**

Gary Smith, President  
Jean-Michel Tremblay, Treasurer  
Martin Goetsch, Member at Large  
Jennifer Lewis, Member at Large

Chris Glazier, Member at Large  
Jamie Martin, Member at Large  
Shannon Goetsch, Member at Large

**Society Members Present:**

Approximately 25

**1. Call to order**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting Agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. Minutes of 2007 Annual General Meeting**

It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the Squamish Windsports Society Annual General Meeting on Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**4. President's Report**

The President, Gary Smith, reported as follows:

"The 2008 year was another good one for the SWS. While the spring weather was poor, the summer and fall were great, with a return to more normal wind patterns. Our membership continues to grow and (combined with the large number of day visitors) demonstrates that Squamish is the best location for windsurfing and kiteboarding on mainland BC. We had excellent staff this year, which performed in an efficient and pleasant manner. The improvements Ole made to the rigging and launching areas were very popular with the exception of the river access for windsurfing and we hope to address this by next season. We hosted the first combined Canadian Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Championships but unfortunately the weather was only cooperative on one of the three days. The social events were well attended and everyone seemed to have a good time with our local sailors and kites faring well in the competitions. (Our thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible.) We have no plans to get involved in such an ambitious project in the near future, concentrating more on local events which take much less organization and can be easily rescheduled if the weather does not cooperate. At the end of the season we

purchased the new container. It features a window with security cover, two change rooms, more storage shelving and is clean and mouse-proof.

Many thanks to all the directors who put in countless hours on behalf of the society: Jamie Martin, Jean-Michel Tremblay, Chris Glazier, Jennifer Lewis, Jeff Kindree, Sandra Bicego, Ed Dubois, Martin Goetsch, Shannon Goetsch, and Dan O'Sullivan."

It was moved and seconded

THAT the President's report be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## **5. Spit Improvements**

We would like to install a safer dock for the staff. Though installing a more permanent structure would be ideal, this is not an option in a sensitive wilderness environment. We need to be able to tow the dock to the harbour in the winter. Expected costs are approximately \$1500.

We would also like to supply the wireless internet to users and staff alike. If this is available staff can input membership info right away.

We need to improve the windsurfing water access-ways.

We would also like to have a regular maintenance budget. We have applied to the district but this year is tight and we will need to be more self-maintaining going forward.

### Discussion:

A question was asked about putting pavers in at the shore.

- This can happen at about \$10 / block
- A test has been run and they do stay in place

Another point was raised about the river side launch safety. The steps are too steep.

Fisheries have been sensitive about us adding more objects into the water, however, as this is an improvement to existing facilities.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported as follows:

"The 2008 season brought us an income of \$39,000. We had some large and necessary expenses this year but we still ended the season with a balance of \$1300.

The expenses were:

- A dock (\$3000)
- A new container (\$8000)
- Construction expenses (\$8000)
- Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Championships (\$4000)

We also had great staff this year and hope to attract people of equal calibre next year.

We continue to expect a positive cash flow next year. This is good as the following projects may require capital.

- Potential Jet Ski replacement
- Improvements to the windsurfing launch
- Additional spit improvements/maintenance

We are open to suggestions on expenses for improvements."

It was moved and seconded  
THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## **BREAK**

### **Jim Hegan Photography Show**

This year saw the first slideshow by another talented kiting photographer, Jim Hegan. The presentation was enjoyed by all and we thank Jim for his very entertaining contribution to the meeting. It was great to see the Spit in all its summer glory.

## **7. Proposed fees:**

A proposal to keep fees at the 2008 rates was introduced.

The resulting fee structure would be:

- \$150.00 annual
- \$140.00 early bird by May 1
- \$250.00 family of two
- \$75.00 student with card
- \$95.00 half season from Aug. 1
- \$15.00 day pass

It was moved and seconded  
THAT the 2008 fee structure be adopted for the 2009 season.

**CARRIED**

### Discussion:

The idea of discounting the day fee for school students was raised. JM explained that it's an important piece of the Society's income. He also reiterated our policy on refunding the student's lesson day use fee, if the student signs up for a season pass.

## **8. New Business**

### Waterfront presentation by Jamie Martin:

There is a lot planned for the Nexan area. Developing plans include discussion between developers and green space advocates. Some questions under discussion are: What's the destination plan? How does that tie in to wind sports? Jamie is staying in touch with the Oceanside Development Group.

Many don't want to see development in the Nexan lands and there has also been a lot of negativity towards wind activity in the public realm. There is talk about a boardwalk to preserve the only bit of waterfront that Squamish has. The area is likely to end up as 30-40% green space (other than the waterfront). There are plans in discussion for a cultural centre and open celebratory area.

That said, the committee knows that Whistler has quad lifts but Squamish has Wind. There is talk about re-shaping the Nexan area to make it useful for wind sports: talk of islands and a riprap land hook that would reach up to catch the wind pocket.

### 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave:

Several SWS members approached the Board about talking to the owners of the 72<sup>nd</sup> land in Boundary Bay. The land owners were at the site one day and were shocked to see all the kites. Boundary Bay Wildlife Management still has the right to decide what goes on in the area; they have total control. The Ministry has the power to decide on use and rules but in 20 years they've rarely prohibited or allowed very much in specifics. That said, an old document was found that defines allowable activities; sailboarding is on it.

We need to be *very* sensitive about where we walk. Stay on the path and don't walk along the foreshore. The hunters, as a group, put up lots of money to keep the area for wildlife. We don't.

### Windsurfing Access Improvements:

Jean-Michel made a motion to improve the windsurfing access before April 30<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved and seconded  
THAT the improvements be made.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Wireless:

A Society member expressed his enjoyment of the Skypilot webcam but disappointment in its operations unreliability. This spurred on more discussion on getting wireless, facilitating the ability of staff to "Twitter" about wind conditions, in order to solve the wind reporting. There was also discussion of getting the wind line back up to help out with reporting.

### Rob Mulder had this to say:

- Events – he really enjoyed the crossing of Kiting and Windsurfing and really likes the idea of keeping the community as a 'we' scenario. It's one of the first wind locations in the world to incorporate both windsurfing and kiting in the same launch area. Jamie brought up that it's really good for the district as it encourages people to travel up here from near-by places too.
- Safety – we are lacking an awareness of rules of the water. There's been a proliferation of this problem. We need more signs. Safety committee didn't really get traction. We should also post Squamish 'rules of the road' on our website. Also, rules should be a mandatory read upon sign up. The 3 big rules. Hand out a laminated card with rules and info location? A sign for first time users to report to staff. Add more info to the website about this kind of thing.

### Woody Adal also spoke:

There is potential for us to get money through a lottery benefits program. We need to apply between Feb 1 and May 31 with a specific project in mind. If we were accepted we might not get money until Aug 31 but it's up to \$100K for a particular event, or operational costs. Woody would like to volunteer to do this as a Director.

A suggestion for a wind turbine as a power source was put forth. It would need to be moveable and put in the bin every night. However this does not guarantee its security.

### Jamie Martin also spoke:

Kite chaos. We need to all make more of an effort to advise people. The staff are too busy and there have been a lot of visitors. Treat them as guests and help them. Don't treat them like they are infringing.

## 9. Election of Officers

Ed Dubois has stepped down as a Director. Jeff Kindree and Dan O'Sullivan are absent. The Squamish Windsports Society would like to thank these Directors for their valuable input and support.

All remaining Directors volunteered for another season.

Dan Druet, Gwen L'Hirondelle and Woody Adal have volunteered to join the Board for the 2009 season! Welcome!

It was moved and seconded

THAT Directors as named be elected for the 2009 season.

**CARRIED**

## 10. Next Meeting:

The next annual general meeting will be in the Fall of 2009.

## 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

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President

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Secretary