

Squamish Windsports Society

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

Held on November 26, 2013 at West Vancouver Yacht Club

Directors Present:

Simon Kent (President), Chris Glazier (Treasurer), Woody Adal (Secretary), Steve Codrington (Vancouver Beach Access), Andrew Wong (Director – Race).

Directors Unable to Attend:

Jamie Martin (Vice-President), Jean-Michel Tremblay (Director - Operations), Don Campbell (Director – Race)

Members Present:25

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:37 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Sam Daimo that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

3. Approval 2012 AGM minutes:

It was moved by Simon Kent and seconded Sam Daimo that the minutes be approved.

CARRIED.

4. Presidents Report

- Thanks to the current Board of Directors and staff for a job well done.
- Membership has increased to 512, an all time high.
- The society has a great bank balance due to an increase in membership and day fees collected. Increase of membership and day fees are due to the popularity of the site, increased diligence of the staff in collecting fees, day fees collected from students of the kite schools and the cost of day fees vs the cost of an annual membership. The Kite schools permit fee brought in an additional \$6000.
- Our jobs as Directors is to promote Kiteboarding and Windsurfing while managing growth at the spit. The Board in pass years has focused on short term growth strategies; for 2014 the board will begin to focus on longer term strategies.
- There is currently no lease despite numerous meetings with the District of Squamish (DoS). Currently the District is in no rush to sign a renew the lease
- Quick background: The Province owns the land and leases the land to the DoS. The DoS than sub-lease

the land to SWS. The management of the estuary/spit was transferred from the Ministry of Forestry to the Ministry of the Environment (MoE). MoE is surprised that SWS is operating in the Wildlife Management Area. No where else in the province is this allowed to happen. The MoE was surprised that kiteboarding schools were operating out at the spit.

- At the beginning of the season the province had issued a cease order for the 4 schools for a few days; however the province acquiesced and allowed the schools to continue for the season. A series of meetings were held on this subject and SWS and the DoE convinced the MoE to allow the Kite Schools to operate at the spit for 2013 by signing a sub-lease with SWS. SWS will get approval for the schools to teach from DoS and MoE before the season starts for 2014. Currently SWS believes 2014 should be okay for schools.
- The MoE is initiating a 10 year management plan for the WMA; the plan will require input from the stakeholders as well as the general community. SWS thinks that the DoS will not commit to a new sub-lease until this plan is complete. SWS created a new board position to liaise with ESMC and also to participate in community discussions concerning the spit, kiteboarding and windsurfing.
- There were suggestion that SWS close the yellow gate at end of day; however; SWS jurisdiction starts approximately half way up the spit road. Responsibility for enforcement is currently under discussion between the Province and DoS; however neither parties want to put up the dollars to do so.
- Speed on the spit is an issue as there has been complaint by the public; SWS feels this is an RCMP issue. SWS suggest installing Speed Limit signs and educating our members; DoS fear the sign will be vandalize.
- Going forward the Board will improve communication with the schools; the Province, the district, the community and the members.
- SWS will communicate via newsletter top ten things to be a good WMA user, educate members on speeding on the road, site etiquette, and develop a sense of community among spit users.
- The Society has expanded the number of Directors to lead in these areas. School Liaison , Community Liaison, Communications and Education.
- Membership Fees will stay the same.
- The Society will spend approximately \$40K for spit improvement.
- Formalize the membership rules of sailing in the spit.
- Obtain a lease.
- Schools integrate Kiteboarding schools into the community.
- Continue to work on Vancouver beach access.
- The Board have lots of ideas to handle the growth of kites and windsurfers.

5. Treasury Report

- See the Financial Statements on web site.
- SWS hired a bookkeeper and implemented better financial controls and well as bookkeeping chores.
- Implemented credit card acceptance at the spit.
- Day fees were up.
- Payroll went up due to a newly created staff position Beach Marshall to facilitate launching and landing.
- The society has \$48k in the bank and will use the monies as outlined in the Financial Statements.
- For 2014 the society is expecting no growth in memberships and we are expecting day fees to decline as we are to trying to limit the # of students per instructor.

6. Operations Report:

- The staff spent a lot of time to retrieve beginner kiteboarders and also kiteboarders from the estuary. The common theme is that there was not enough skill to get out of 'harms way'. The Staff felt that a baseline

of skills were needed before you can safely kite at the spit.

- Introduction of a Beach Marshall has helped to increase the launching and landing kites. The four schools were able to co-exists; however there should be a limit to the number of schools and the number of students on the spit at any particular time. The staff realize that the society derives income from the schools but feels that too many students will degrade the sailing experience for the members as well as the students. The has to be a balance.

7. Special Events:

- Summer Race Series (4 weekends)
- West Coast Open and Canadian National Champion Kiteboard Race
- Kite Klash
- Kiteoween

8. New Business:

- The SWS wishes to thank Jaime Martin and Jean-Michel Tremblay for there many years of sitting on the board.

9. Election of Officers:

Each position was unchallenged and each officer was elected unanimously by the members in attendance.

- President - Simon Kent
- Vice-President – Anthony Leoni
- Treasury - Chris Glazier
- Secretary - Woody Adal
- Director: School Liaison – Anthony Leoni
- Director: Community Liaison – Cameron Eby
- Director: Vancouver Beach Access: Stephen Codrington
- Director: Operations and Facilities – Simon Kent
- Director: Special Event - Don Campbell
- Directors: Communications and Education – Tracey Saxby, Adrian Jones.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Woody Adal at 10:00 PM that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.