

**Squamish Windsports Society**  
**Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting**

Held on November 18, 2014 at West Vancouver Yacht Club

Directors Present:

Simon Kent (President/Operations), Chris Glazier (Treasurer), Woody Adal (Secretary), Jamie Martin (Consultant), Cameron Eby (Community Liaison) , Don Campbell (Events)

Directors Unable to Attend:

Anthony Leoni (Vice President/School Liaison), Tracy Saxby (Communications and Education), Adrian Jones (Communications and Education), Steve Codrington (Vancouver Beach Access)

Members Present:26

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:40 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Chris that the agenda be approved.  
CARRIED.

3. Approval 2013 AGM minutes:

It was moved by Simon that the 2013 AGM minutes be approved.  
CARRIED.

4. Presidents Report: Simon

Simon has been President for the last three years and this season has been the best one to date with a lot accomplished.

For 2013 the number of directors was increased. The increase was done to split the volunteer workload more evenly so that the directors were not faced with an abnormal amount of work. The society is in a good financial position.

There are now 630 members and have been increasing every year since he was the president. We have a hired a new Club Manager that has shown good initiative in making the spit a better place.

The society is maturing and the District of Squamish (DoS) was looking for a strong Board of Directors (BoD) to deal with the many issues that involve the operation of the Spit.

The BoD had to deal with continual membership growth while at the same time utilizing the spit area more effectively.

SWS is the only society that works in a Wildlife Management

Area in BC. The DoS as part of town branding wanted Kiteboarding and Windsurfing included in the local recreational mix to help with the branding of Squamish. Needless to say the DoS lobbied hard for our society to be there.

We have a new 5 years Sublicense (lease), which can however be cancelled anytime should the society breach the conditions set forth by the term of the lease. It is important for members to know that it is a privilege for SWS to be able to operate at the Spit. One of the most critical

terms is that members stay out of the Estuary. This is very important as the estuary is an environmentally sensitive area, and should be protected. Breaches of this condition could result in a termination of our lease by the Province.

There is also a Flood Management proposal for Squamish. In the proposal DoS is split into 5 regions with options for each region. For the region in which the Spit/Training Dyke is located, one of the options, would be to remove the spit and build the dyke closer to the terminal. This option seems highly unlikely.

Jamie and Cameron has been keeping on top of the Estuary issues and Oceanfront Waterfront Park opportunity. The Squamish peninsula is almost sold so they will have to lobby hard that the new park will accommodate SWS members.

SWS would like to expand the windsports season which is currently authorized in our Sublicense from May 15 through Sept 15. It will be the BoD's ongoing project to lobby for an extension of the season to May 1 through September 30 of each year. BoD will have to spend funds to support an environmental study to justify extend season.

Spit expansion will also be considered as an option, but is an onerous task as approval is required by all stakeholders of the estuary (SEMC, District, Province, Squamish First Nation). Expanding into the River is a non-starter.

SWS now has 630 members a far cry from a few years ago. Simon forecast SWS membership to be 700 members next year. BoD and staff will have to work hard to manage spit use and requires the cooperation of all members. Denham and Andrea have done an incredible job of managing spit usage. There were 700 retrievals performed this season. There were over 600 lessons that originated from the spit.

The only nominee for president this year is unable to attend the meeting. Anthony Leoni, as Vice-President, has been continually working with the Kiteboarding Schools and District throughout the year. Anthony had to deal with the different needs of schools, Province and District. He developed the annual contract (sub-sub-license) for the Kiteboard Schools (KS) with the oversight of the Province, DoS, and the BoD. The contract was signed by the four schools in 2014. In 2014, the schools agreed to abide by the terms that the Province, District and SWS Board have created.

SWS has the duty to continually monitor the schools for compliance with rules and regulations. A copy of the Sublicense is available on our Website and can be accessed via ABOUTDOCUMENTS- Legal Documents.

#### 5. Treasurer Report: Chris

See the Financial Statements <http://www.squamishwindsports.com/about/documents/>

This year we have sold more membership than ever.

Payroll expense up, due to increase in staffing for the season..

Spent \$10k for gravel and will need that much for next year.

Positive income of \$14k this year and accumulated funds of \$59k in the bank.

Money allocated 2015 includes: gravel maintenance; stair and walkway maintenance; jetski fund; unexpected expenses; mat replacement; environmental study.

Financially the Society is in a healthy state and does not anticipate any other expenses in 2014.

#### 6. Operations: Club Manager Denham

He has seen the amount the BoD do to manage the spit and appreciates the effort that has gone into keeping SWS running.

2014 saw lots of improvements, increase in staffing has helped managed the use of the spit and he anticipates more staff for next year. He will assign experience staff to manage spit space and new staff to man the container/monitor check in/parking.

There is not enough space to dedicate some areas of the spit to a particular function, space has to be flexible depending on usage.

Staff knows where, when and how to partition the needs of Windsurfers and Kiteboarders. Windsurfers have high priority to allow for rigging.

If in doubt windsurfers should ask staff to help create space to rig or create a clear path for launching on the walkway.

Introduction of the Air Compressor was huge advantage in allowing for easy inflation so deflating a kite in an busy area was more palatable.

Its an insult to other members to park a kites in launching and landing area. Weekend users need to be educated on this more.

It was a challenge to have a clear path along the spit as empty space was taken up with miscellaneous kite gear/bags/clothes.

There is a immediate need to increase the safety of the windward steps at the spit.

Current Astro turf technology is expensive and may not be suitable for spit use.

Additions for next year: another webcam to increase the field of view; solar power weather station at a higher altitude (not at sea level); depending on cost the possibility of wifi internet access, an environmentally friendly air compressor, safer stairs.

Al Kot, in addition to maintaining the live wind information, will donate his time to setup the weather station and investigate the feasibility of wifi access.

The staff will create a spit introduction video; this video will cover: checking in; kite inflation, rigging, basically a flow of all the land processes needed to kite safely and angle parking.

Maintenance of the Spit will have to avoid areas where there is growth (weeds grass).

Members have expressed a desire to make the windward steps and access to the step safer; SWS can't add gravel there at all.

Suggest for a large walkway to allow windsurfers to carry their gear unimpeded from the rigging area. Staff will work on the above suggestions. Denham and Andrea have said that the staff is always available to assist members in carrying gear or creating rigging space.

#### 7. Events: Don

Events – Kiteoween (Cancelled due to weather), Kite Klash, 3 local races and West Coast Open , Squamish Windfest.

Racing was completed by 3 pm, so there were still a few hours of unfettered sailing. Races generated a \$700 profit.

Events will be similar next year; for racing maybe add a 'twin tip' class.

SWS is open to hosting windsurfing events; however these have to be member driven.

Don attended a meeting hosted by BC Sailing, the topic was the waterfront park. The vision is for all windsports stakeholders to have a common goal and facility. There is no center of excellence for sailing on the West Coast of Canada. SWS (Jamie, Cam, Don) will coordinate with BC Sailing on waterfront park facility requirements.

Beach Access: See Appendix B.

#### 8. Community Liaisons: Cameron

The Squamish Estuary Management Committee allocates one seat on the committee to recreational activities and currently SWS holds this seat. In this committee Jamie/Cameron advocates not only for SWS but all recreational activity in the WMA

Recently the chair of the SEMC was away; her replacement did not want the SWS operating in the WMA. Surprising the province tempered her resistance to SWS presence at the spit. SWS could have lost the use of the Spit; if the province didn't step up and shut her down. Currently all the SEMC members supported the SWS operating in this sensitive area. The threat is always there that SWS will lose the use of the spit should member activities alienate the SEMC.

Denham reminded the members that it is a privilege to sail at the spit; it is not an right. Members must always be respectful of the staff when they are dealing with Estuary intrusion, environment concerns and space management.

SWS reasons for increasing the operational dates. If there's wind kites and windsurfers will sail especially when it is close to the operational dates. Locking the gate will not deter wind enthusiast. If there was an incident during this time no retrieval service will be available. By increasing the operational dates SWS staff will be there to handle any duress in the area. it is also hoped that by increasing the season by a month the average daily use will trend down, SWS will commission an environmental report on season expansion.

SWS application for a lottery grant was soundly rejected. Gaming staff did advise the society on tweaking the application in 2015. Perhaps SWS could explore kiteboarding for youth in its application grant.

During the Municipal elections; there was an all sports meeting where the candidates had the opportunity to learn about the activities in Squamish. Jamie and Cameron had a table setup to meet with the candidates and impressed upon them the need of another Windsports park.

Windsport community is growing and more access is needed. Cam will education the new District Councillors on our Society.

Ocean front development. Jamie worked on a waterfront plan in the past; recently the district created a master plan for the peninsula, with Trevor Dunn (a hydrologist) having significant input on the Waterfront Park. The developer understand the park is a must.

The current council is interested in a Waterfront Park. Jamie will lobby to ensure that Kiteboarding and Windsurfing are in the Park development plan. SWS need to conduct a studying on spending by SWS members when they are visiting Squamish; this will hopefully convince council to push for windsports facilities at the Waterfront Park. Cameron will lobby for funds that will benefit SWS.

Flood management. One possible suggestion is removal of the training dyke and building a new dyke. SEMC has not commented on this solution yet.

#### 9. Community and Education: Tracy and Adrian:

Represented SWS at LNG and various community meeting.

Developed and Administered a friendlier Web site, that allowed easier posting of information,

webcam viewing and current wind and water statistics.

Integrated the membership list with a record of attendance and streamlined payment processing.

The donated Ipad was great for logging attendance and gathering statistics.

#### 10. Election of Officers:

Each position was unchallenged and each officer was acclaimed

- President - Anthony Leoni
- Vice-President – Simon Kent
- Treasury - Chris Glazier
- Secretary – Susan Inkpen
- Director: Community Liaison – Cameron Eby
- Director: Vancouver Beach Access: Stephen Codrington
- Director: Special Event - Don Campbell
- Director: Consultant - Jamie Martin
- Director: Communication – Rebecca Aldous

#### 11. Kite School Discussion:

BoD and Club manger have pondered the licensing of Kiteboarding Schools (KS) at the spit. Is it worth the BoD time to deal with K Schools? Does the society need the schools to operate out of the spit?

If it weren't for the KS more newbies will be drifting into the Estuary and hence more retrievals.

Technically, our original lease did not allow a commercial enterprise to operate at the spit. KS are a commercial enterprise. District talked about SWS giving lessons instead of the KS. In the end Simon was able to convince the District and the Province KS are a necessity. SWS does not expect any changes in 2015.

Province favours schools for learning and maybe no spit usage without KS. KS keep the sport safe for beginners. KS need to be careful that they do not take it for granted that they can teach at the spit. It must be noted that SWS, District or Province may cancel the sub-license of a KS(s) at any time.

SWS may consider in the future whether to put a cap on the number of students. We have heard from members that they want more space at the spit, so some don't want more schools.

SWS has the absolute jurisdiction to decide whether KS will be permitted to operate on at the spit. SWS is concerned with the numbers of students at the spit. SWS noticed that Aerial kiteboarding has been running from harbour with more students per boat than the 2 allowed at the Spit.

Aerial: Dan will respect the WMA and keeps the quality of his schools lessons high. He has offered to host free clinics/seminars.

Numbers of students in 2014: Aerial trending downward; VKS is leveling off.

Instructors are more aware of how busy the spit is becoming for teaching. For beginners, staff will help when requested or will assist; they are good judge of body language.

Currently there is a limit of 4 schools that are permitted to operate from the Spit each season. No issues with the number of boats in the

water.

What is the SWS doing for quality of teaching, condition of instructors, condition of the boat? Club Manager and staff will monitor this aspect, no hard fast rules needed, they can deal with it as it goes; staff will advise depending on safety.

#### 12. Other Business:

Roberto - after taking lessons he feels something is lacking for him to kite at the spit. He wants SWS to organize beginners clinics. Denham commented Staff is there to help, and video will address Roberto issues; he also feels that students don't budget enough dollars for Kiteboarding education.

VKS: Colin - There are different teaching standards amongst schools. The school need to communicate to students that staff is there to help or give technical advice. Perhaps a checklist of skills is required for newbies before they are allowed to sail at the spit.

Adrien: Have hit underwater obstacles and request SWS to mark underwater hazards. Denham will address this in 2015.

#### 13. Adjournment:

It was moved by Simon at 9:46 PM that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

### **Appendix A: Email report Stephen Codrington November 18, 2014**

Don and I had a great chat with the Parks Board Aquatics Director today about the new Parks Board and what we need to do in our process with Spanish Banks. **I'd like to fill the position again next year and I'll summarize where we're at below.**

- I spent infinitely longer discussing and emailing about the pilot this summer as I didn't kite ONE SINGLE SESSION (ie X divided by ZERO) under the pilot – BOO HOO

- The feedback from Sean (Parks Board Aquatics Director) was very positive

- oIn our efforts to be transparent Don shared feedback from a 2-3 incidents over the summer where dog owners *wished* they didn't have to share the beach – Sean's reaction was that was 'nothing' and was to be expected from his experiences with the public.

- Sean remains a strong advocate of ours and re really seems proud of the pilot, when I asked if he'd be a reference to us if we approach the parties involved in wintertime access to the facilities at Centennial/ Boundary Bay – he responded enthusiastically and said that he would absolutely do that for us.

- o know this is a 'want' of Simon and I agree that it makes sense that we use the showers, sandy open beach and support the businesses IF they remain open during the cold winter months when we could use the parking, change rooms and showers WHILE also leaving the sometimes testy residents of 3rdave alone.

- Next Steps re Spanish Banks

- oThe newly elected Parks Board Members go through a 'training' process to get educated on the Vancouver Parks Board Facilities and their programs for the next few months

- oA (1) year Kitesurfing Spanish Banks Pilot Report is due back to the Parks Board – Sean and his Staff will write this

- oSean wants to see us get onto the Parks Board Agenda for early this winter to supplement their report and perhaps provide a '1 page report' of our own

- oWithout deriding the *awesomeness* of Dog Beach as a launch, we discussed that the Windsurfing Launch at the Sailing Center may be even *more awesome*.

§We need to be careful not to lose what we have in pursuit of something that may be better – Sean suggested that maybe we could secure approvals to have both?!?

·See earlier point re How supportive Sean is!

oThe lifeguards have expressed curiosities in better understanding kiting safety and what they need to know to help if something does happen. We discussed that in the context of:

1)an informal kiting workshop for the lifeguards (gear reviews, trainer kites etc) next spring

2)The potential to partner up with the rescue boat capabilities that are currently running out of the sailing center ie don't call the coastguard just because a kiter is swimming in etc.

oIF we do pursue sharing the Windsurfing Launch, we may have to run another 1 year pilot as this is different from last year

oIF things stay the same (ie we stick with Dog Beach) then we were always told the Pilot MAY be the fast track to getting something more permanent set up.

I would say that an open dialogue at the SWS AGM re the merits of each launch is not necessary and isn't helpful at this time. Have people continue to share their thoughts on the merits of each launch with myself and the informal committee that we have been running; Simon, the Godfathers, Kalena etc. Don pointed out that the sailing center staff may need some work to get onboard but if we can get the lifeguards on our side...

End of email.