

## **Squamish Windsports Society**

### **Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting**

Held on November 17th, 2015 at the West Vancouver Yacht Club

Directors Present:

Anthony Leoni (President), Simon Kent (Vice President), Chris Glazier (Treasurer), Susan Inkpen (Secretary), Rebecca Aldous (Communication), Woody Adal (Director at Large), Roberto Bruezze (Education Director), and Geoffrey Waterson (Communications).

Directors Unable to Attend:

Tracey Saxby (Communications), Don Campbell (Event Director), Cameron Eby Community Liaison), Jaime Martin (Director at Large), and Stephen Codrington (Vancouver Beach Access).

Members Present: 54

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:30 PM.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Anthony that he agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

#### 3. Approval of 2014 AGM minutes:

It was moved by Anthony that the 2014 AGM minutes be approved.

CARRIED

#### 4. President's Report (Anthony Leoni)

The SWS has made significant investments in our infrastructure at the Spit for 2015.

- We have purchased two brand new SeaDoos and new docks.
- There is a new wind-meter. Alan Kot volunteered his time and gave us a new wind-meter. Next year Alan will work on a wireless connection.
- We have also made surface improvements (gravel work) at the Spit.

These projects have a greater financial cost this year (mainly due to purchasing the seadoos). However, we have a financial surplus from previous years so the SWS still maintains a positive cash balance.

The SWS has 788 members this year.

The heart of the SWS is the staff at the Spit. The SWS would like to thank our staff, and in particular, give a special thanks to our Club Manager Denham Trollip and Assistant Club Manager Andrea Belovska. Our staff have shown amazing initiative in making the Spit a better place. Denham's improvements to the Spit have been instrumental in easing congestion and increasing the efficient use of space. Our staff are always friendly and helpful and are the primary contributors to the sense of community at the Spit. This year, the staff performed 734 retrievals with a record of 41 retrievals in one day.

The SWS would like to thank all the members for cooperating with the improved site use procedures as they benefit all users.

Our relationship with our government partners remains strong. In particular, Anthony has extensive contact with the District of Squamish (DoS) and the Province of BC (PoBC). The SWS land belongs to DoS who then lease it to us and as such we should continue to foster these relationships.

The proposed new school bylaw amendment is intended to relieve the DoS of the responsibility for administration of the schools. The District has asked us to assume all responsibility for approval and administration of the schools at the Spit and the new bylaw addresses that.

The 2016 Board will have to grow the membership in a responsible way and will have to consider several important issues:

- Promote Alternative energy as a way to provide power for our operations.
- Monitor Woodfiber/Fortis project insofar as it affects windsports in Squamish
- Improve Beach access in the GVRD.
- Ensure that the new Squamish Oceanfront Development will include our interests.
- Continue the work that Cameron Eby has commenced to extend the kite season, currently from May 15 through September 15th to May 1st to September 30th.

For 2016, Anthony's goal if re-elected, is to build on theme of Community. This includes increasing interaction and social events for membership. Also, new member orientations with Roberto, and high-end clinics from visiting pros. We had a very successful clinic with Lewis Crathern at Kite Clash, and we are looking to increase those types of opportunities for our

membership. Our hope is that by increasing friendship among our members, it will develop a greater sense of courtesy and consideration on the water, especially in congested areas like the honey hole. People are less likely to short tack or cut off their friends!

In closing, Anthony would like to give a special thanks to our 2015 Board members who are retiring this year:

Tracy Saxby has been our Community Relations Director. She designed our cool logo and lobbied for support.

Stephen Codrington led the successful effort to have summer beach access at Spanish Banks. He's contributed a huge amount of work lobbying the Vancouver Parks Board.

Cameron Eby who has been our lead on SEMC and primary contact with the District on estuary management matters. Cameron has done a great deal of good work towards expanding our season and the 2016 Community Liaison will pick up where Cameron left off.

Question and Answer Period, Open Discussion

Q: What determines our season limits?

R: Squamish Estuary Management Committee needs to agree to any extension to the season.

Q: What effects do Woodfibre/Fortis have on the Spit?

R: Fortis is drilling test holes to determine if it's feasible to build projects in the area.

Q: Can we get money from them?

R: Is there a consensus from the SWS members to get funds? There is \$30,000 available and Fortis Project is already approved by provincial agencies.

- There were concerns about road access. The Board thought the project would interrupt road access but they gave us alternating single lane access.

Q: Could we get them to pave the road?

R: No, we can't pave the road because the District may need to raise it for floods. We can, however, ask them to grade it.

One member thought that when LNG operated, the road was in better condition. Actually, Denham has asked for more frequent grading but the response was that the District will not grade during peak season because then public drives faster on those roads.

Q: Who owns the road?

R: The province own the road, and the Engineering department of the District determines the maintenance.

Q: what is the timeline for the LNG/Fortis project in Squamish?

R: It will not commence in the immediate future but we want members to think about how it affects us.

- Simon Kent is heavily against accepting funds from LNG/Fortis as he states are self-sufficient on our own. He believes it's a slippery slope to having their endorsement.
- The money is intended to compensate for any inconveniences and in the end, there were no delays so no real need for compensation.
- Kite Clash organizer was approached by Fortis and he suspected it was for corporate community building.

The SWS Board is firm against corporate publicity or advertising. More information is needed to make a sound decision.

## 2. Treasurer's Report (Chris Glazier)

The SWS has made \$121,000 this year in revenue. However, we spent \$141,000 in Spit improvements that were one time expenses such as Seadoos, and gravel.

The SWS anticipates to fund some gravel work next year and hopefully retire the compressors, running on solar/wind power alternatively. Overall, next year should be better fiscally.

Expenditures have been quite predictable over the last several years.

The SWS has only \$6000 leftover from this year but there are still more funds available, accrued from previous years.

This year our revenue has increased by 15%, but membership has also increased by approximately 100 people.

## 3. Vancouver Beach Access (Simon Kent)

Currently kiteboarders in Vancouver are permitted to launch from Dog Beach but that location is not ideal for many reasons. Simon is trying to relocate beach access with the Vancouver Parks Board.

Simon is also trying to acquire access at Centennial Beach park but the issue is becoming very

complicated due to number of stakeholders, and proximity to nesting birds. Access at this location seems unlikely, for example, stand-up paddle kiosks not even allowed.

Alternatively, Simon is pursuing Spanish Banks as a point of access.

#### 4. Education Director (Roberto Bruezze)

The new member orientations went well. He had 12 members attend, and received good feedback. Roberto plans to hold more orientations next year and further, include intermediate and advanced clinics.

#### 5. Manager's Report (Denham Trollip)

We've had a great season this year.

Injury is our top concern, and we've only had one major incident.

The seadoos are running well. We have continuing issues with the intake grates, sucking up rocks.

Improvements for the Spit 2016:

Moving forward, the SWS needs to make improvements in our accounting procedures. The membership database does not communicate with the transaction database, and as such absorb a considerable amount of staff time to reconcile. One solution may be sign-in cards. Furthermore, the staff would be able to record number of retrievals, and provide statistics.

- More sign boards for layout/procedures, as well as parking.
- New dock moorings, they broke at the end of the season.
- Movement towards incorporating solar/turbine power instead of compressed air for energy.
- Re-design of the sea-can to be more safe and efficient.

Question and Answer Period, Open Discussion

Q: Regarding incidents involving safety, is there a better way to avoid boats downwind. R: That was a singular accident. Current practices are still safe. This meeting is not to micromanage the schools at the spit.

The SWS Board's prerogative is to hold safety as the number one priority and will continue talks with staff and members.

Q: What is the rule about people jumping upwind?

R: Manager will incorporate that issue into the check-out rules. Furthermore, he assures that the staff are constantly looking out for inexperienced riders and intervene. Though the staff mainly monitor the beach and do not see what is happening on the water, the staff will help set the tone. Hopefully we can avoid this by building a positive community.

#### 6. Election of Officers:

Director: At large - Woody Adal

Director: Education - Roberto Bruezze

Director: Communications - Rebecca Aldous

Director: Consultant - Jaime Martin

Director: Consultant - Don Campbell

Director: Communications - Geoffrey "Chuck" Waterson

Director: Special Event - Alex Waterson

Director: Special Event - Steve Tulk

Director: Community Liaison - Chris Roulette

Secretary: Susan Inkpen

Treasurer: Chris Glazier

Vice President: Simon Kent

President: Anthony Leoni

#### 7. Bylaw Amendment

The spirit of the new bylaw is that the SWS Board will determine which schools operate through the DoS. The District of Squamish does not want to deal with the administration of kiteboard schools and as such ask the SWS Board to deal with them accordingly. More specifically, the SWS Board will set criteria/standards for schools, approve schools, and enter into agreement with the schools.

Q: Is the SWS liable for the schools?

R: The SWS requires schools to carry their own insurance.

The District advised us last year that schools are not allowed to operate out of Nexan

Q: Will the Nexan Development change it?

R: The SWS will assume responsibility if available in the future.

Any member can apply for a school license and give criteria. It will be up to the Board to decide how many schools operate and which ones.

It's important to understand that the DoS can terminate our lease arbitrarily and as such we must follow their subjects so that if we lose our agreement with the District, the SWS cannot be sued.

Once the Board approves the schools, they sign an annual agreement to follow our rules of the SWS.

This bylaw requires a 75 percent majority. Vote shows only four members opposed so motion passed.

## 8. New Business

Q: How do we limit traffic of the schools?

R: The SWS limits of number of students per boat, two students to one instructor.

Q: In regards to schools and students, the record of 41 rescues in one day, were they all beginners?

R: No there was a temperature inversion and the wind shut off.

Q: Can the SWS improve the stairway into the river?

R: We are not allowed to change anything below the tideline as it is a wildlife management issue.

Q: Is there a way for the SWS to add updates on twitter and facebook?

R: Not at this time, mostly due to workload on staff. We will update the webpage.

Q: Schools advertise at the Spit but local retailers unable to access the Spit the way that schools can. Is the SWS against other ads?

R: No one is supposed to be advertising at the Spit, it just happens indirectly as the schools are stationed there.

Q: Is the SWS open to advertisements from related businesses who could provide revenue to enhance the Spit?

R: We are open to some policy on sponsorship, however, some members don't want ads. Perhaps kite friendly businesses. The only other consideration is that we want to be fair to other advertisers and not bombard members.

Q: Can we learn more from Hood River?

R: We have looked at their business model and most of it didn't work.

Q: Can we improve parking at the Spit? Lobby for angle parking signs to extend the Spit.

R: Yes. we have a quote for \$700. We can also add chalk lines. Parking, schools, and traffic are deliberated at every meeting and we are working towards improving existing systems.

Thank you all for attending. We love to hear from you all and look forward to seeing you at the Spit.

Motion to adjournment: 9:15pm.