

Squamish Windsports Society 2018 Season AGM

Date: January 24th, 2019

Location: Squamish Adventure Center

1. Call to order:

Geoff Waterson calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Board members in attendance:

- Geoff Waterson
- Steve Tulk
- Josh Viner
- Alan Linsley
- Alyssa Salloum
- Brett Wilson

Quorum: 21 additional members in attendance.

2. President's Report (Geoffrey Waterson standing in for Jen Chow who is absent):

6:03pm

The Squamish Windsports Society (SWS) is a not for profit society which is funded by dues from our membership. The purpose of our existence is to promote windsports in Howe Sound. To further that purpose, we are very fortunate to sub-license the lands belonging to the Provincial Crown and known as the Squamish Spit (0.79 hectares from the turnaround to the southern end of the spit). The District of Squamish licenses the land from the Crown Provincial and in turn they license it to us. Our license did expire on September 15th, 2018 and we are in the process of renegotiating the lease with the District of Squamish in time for the start of the 2019 season.

The Squamish Spit is next to the Squamish Estuary Wildlife Management Area, which is a Provincially designated environmental protection zone. Part of the purpose of the SWS is to act as good stewards of the lands and waters, to protect this environmentally sensitive zone. We take this stewardship very seriously and are committed to working with governments and stakeholders to protect this valuable resource. Many of our rules and regulations are founded on protecting the Wildlife Management Area.

Unfortunately, there are some in stakeholder groups who are opposed to our presence at the Spit and who will use any perceived breach by any wind sports member to lobby the governments to not allow us to continue at the Spit. We will have to continue acting as good stewards to maintain our relationships. We must always remember that our access to the Spit is a privilege not a right and can be taken away by the government with a stroke of the pen.

The heart of the SWS is our staff at the Spit. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank our staff for their contributions to the Spit this year, in particular, our Club Manager Denham Trollip. Our staff have continued to show initiative in making the Spit a better place. Denham's improvements to the Spit have been instrumental in easing congestion and increasing efficient

use of space. One of the major improvements in 2018 included a solar powered compressor which replaced the previous gas generator.

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

In 2019 the Board will have to continue to grow the membership in a responsible way and will also have to consider several important issues:

- Activities from the Watershed Society that directly affect our access and potential spit realignment.
 - Continue to promote alternative energy as a way to provide power for our operations
- Continue to monitor the Woodfiber/Fortis project insofar as it affects windsports in Squamish
- Continue to work on ensuring that the Squamish Oceanfront project is developed in a way that is beneficial to windsport users
 - Continue to advocate for the preservation of the Spit as a windsport facility

Of particular note at this time is The Watershed Society is actively trying to make major changes to the Squamish estuary in an attempt to improve the Chinook Salmon fish stocks.

- Between January and May 2019 they are constructing a new single-lane bridge along the Dike Road. This will directly impact access to The Spit during the off season for an unknown period of time. Construction is due to be completed before May 1st. The SWS board are in regular contact with the Watershed society and have voiced our concerns for the construction time frames impacting the regular kiting season.

- The Watershed Society is in the evaluation stage of what they call Phase 2, Spit Realignment. This stage involves creating an access road from Downtown Squamish. The financial grants they have received require them to have completed this within 5 years – so the project will either go ahead in some capacity or not, within that time frame. The SWS board is working on a list of Criteria that must be met for windsport users in order for the project to be supported by the SWS.

Optimistically, there is the potential for an improvement to the access to the Spit, however worst case there is also a chance that environmental interests might trump any windsport interests in favor of fish stocks in the estuary. Rest assured, the SWS board is working to maintain or improve the access and world class conditions that we enjoy here in Squamish.

For 2019, my goal if I am elected President is to build on the existing infrastructure at the Spit, as well as ensure the SWS is engaged with the multiple stakeholder groups affecting our access.

Additionally, many of us are aware of a large storm which occurred in December 2018. This storm washed away a very significant amount of damage to the Spit. There will need to be significant improvements to the Spit launching and landing areas prior to the season opening on May 15, and is a leading cause for the board of directors calling for an increase to the annual membership fees.

I would also like to thank the board members from 2018:

- Myself, Geoffrey Waterson
- Josh Viner, Treasurer
- Allyssa, Vice President
- Steve Tulk, Events
- Alan Linsley, Communications
- Brett Wilson, Director at Large

In closing, I would like to give a special thanks to our 2018 Board members who are retiring this year:

- Jen Chow, President
- Chris Rollett, Community Relations
- Rebecca Aldous, Communications
- Jamie Martin, Director at Large

Thank you.

3. Financial Statements and Fee Schedule - 6:22

Josh Viner overviewed the revenue and expenses for the society over 2018. Main items discussed:

- New compressor and solar equipment
- Insurance
- Staffing
- Revenue sources
 - Kicker purchased in 2017 will generate revenue in 2019 from Duotone sponsorship
 - Several questions ensued about to location and purpose of this feature

Fee Schedule

- Last increase in fees was more than 7 years ago and was due to the SWS starting to charge GST.

- Major storms that physically moved the SeaCan in December and cause significant erosion to the Spit - will drive up costs this year.
- Current Fee Structure:
 - Family Membership: \$275
 - Single Membership: \$165
 - Student Membership: \$85
 - Day Fees: \$20
- Proposal to increase fees by:
 - Family Membership: \$315
 - Single Membership: \$180
 - Student Membership: \$95
 - Day Fees: \$20

Motion Proposed by: Josh Viner - Seconded by Vince Allen.

- Motion passed with 17 votes fore

4. Future plans for the Spit - 6:55pm

Alyssa and Alan have been invited to represent the SWS at future meetings through 2019 to ensure access for Windsports and other recreation users are considered.

Alyssa shared the update on the proposed Bridge located at Culvert 6.

- Bridge construction design and dates are still TBD
- Spirited discussion ensued about the merits of this approach

Phase 2 & 3 of the Central Estuary Restoration Project

- The nature of this complex negotiation was described by first listing the stakeholders:
 - District of Squamish
 - Provincial Government
 - Federal Government
 - Squamish Nation
 - Squamish Estuary Management Committee
 - Squamish Watershed Society
 - Squamish Terminals
 - Squamish Windsports Society
- The different objectives of each group were described to attendees to demonstrate how the SWS can best proceed towards an outcome that satisfies all stakeholders

5. General Manager Report 7:55pm

Big mentions to Chris R and Josse for their professional commitment and attention to details in operations.

Thanks to the members who each year help with carpet rollout and rollup, as well as volunteer assistance though the season.

To the schools, Dan and Jason, for cooperating together in the community to contribute to the positive vibes on and off the spit.

And of course to the directors who volunteer so much of their time and energy, more than the members know, to make sure the spit not only stays accessible, but continues as one of the best windsport sites on Earth.

6 - Election of New Board: 8:02pm

All of the following people ran uncontested and were voted in without questions:

President - Geoff Waterson

Vice President - Steve Tulk

Treasurer - Josh Viner

Secretary - Alan Linsley

Community Relations - Alyssa Salloum

Operations - Brett Wilson

Communications - Nikki Layton

Legal - David Bowden

Fundraising & Grant Writing - Alex Waterson & Sheila Sovereign

Vision and Planning - Scott Degelman

7 - Meeting Adjourned: 8:26pm