



Wostaweia Cross-Country Ski Club
Annual General Meeting
(Virtual, Pandemic-Delayed Edition)

By Zoom Videoconference
7:00 pm, 5 November 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Members present:

Executive

John Ball – President
Don Wright – Vice President
Milda Markauskas – Past President
Ian Burgess – Treasurer
David Cameron – Trails Coordinator
Nadya Ladouceur – Social Coordinator
Barb Ramsay – Communications Coordinator
Michel Poirier – Jackrabbit Coordinator
Eric Luiker – Race Team Coordinator
Regrets: Peta Fussell – Secretary

Members at Large

Anna Healy, Margaret Wicken, Nathalie Comeau, Ida Orenbach, Nicki Violette, Jean-Claude Arcand, Jade, Katrina Mulherin

1. Welcoming remarks – John Ball

- John welcomed everyone to the first virtual AGM and introduced the members of the executive.

2. Review of minutes of the last annual general meeting (10 April 2019)

- Ida Orenbach provided some grammatical revisions.

- Barb Ramsay motioned to approve the minutes, Don Wright seconded. All in favour. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Outgoing President's report and 2019-20 season summary – John Ball

- John reported that 2019-2020 was another extremely successful season.
- A new strategic plan and new mission and vision statements were launched and much work has already been made towards achieving those goals.
- Membership grew to almost 900 members. The club also saw huge growth in its programs with maxed out participation in Jackrabbits, Track Attack, and adult lessons.
- The MCAF program ran its third year and was also very successful with a particularly keen group of skiers.
- The Racing Team, which included 27 members, won the NB Cup championship.
- Another successful Maritime Cup was hosted thanks to David Cameron and his team.
- The first ever Sprint Race was also very successful and a lot of fun for participants.
- Another terrific Loppet was held with almost 200 skiers. A new trophy was introduced - The Morimanno Family Kilometer Cup – to be awarded annually to the family who skied the most kilometers in the Loppet.
- The senior ski also continued very successfully.
- A new initiative – The Women of Wostawea – was introduced with support from Nordiq Canada.
- John noted the wonderful communications work continued by Barb. Newsletters and media attention play an important role in building a sense of community and passing on information to members in a very friendly and helpful format.
- Over 150 volunteers made the season possible. Terrific work was done by groomers, coaches, executive members, race officials, and many more. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the annual volunteer appreciation event could not be held, but tribute was paid to volunteers in the final weekly newsletter of the season.
- Milda thanked John for all his help over the last six years as club president and presented John as the recipient of the Nancy Hamilton Award for his wonderful service as president, coach, and enthusiast. John noted it has been an honour to volunteer for the club and he intends to continue doing so for years to come.

4. Treasurer's report – Ian Burgess

Registrar report

- Ian gave an overview of the Registrar's report.

- Membership grew from 803 to 893 members; age distribution was consistent with previous years.
- The club saw a record number of Jackrabbits; registration had to be capped in 2019-20 and has already been capped for 2020-21 within 24 hours of membership opening.
- Adult classes leveled out.
- Racing Team participation also grew and is already up to 35 members for the 2020-21 season.
- Loppet participation increase by ten (10).
- Maritime Cup participation was consistent with 2018.
- Already up to 360 members for this year (2020-21).

Finance Report

- **Revenue:**
 - Ian gave a summary of revenue for the season, reporting a steady growth of income.
 - \$49,000 was budgeted, \$67,600 total was received.
 - Fundraising event contributed to this.
 - Racing team registration and donations increased from last season.
 - Swag sales were very successful.
 - Top revenue included: memberships, lessons, racing team, Maritime Cup.
- **Expenses:**
 - Trails: increased due to a few large items (contractor for bush cutting (money well spent, a lot of value), maintenance costs on 2014 snow mobile (buying a new one this year)).
 - Capital Fund: used for replacing grooming equipment/snowmobiles.
 - Women of Wostawea: received grant for this.
 - Racing Team: had a carry forward. Money is being spent earlier for 2020-21 season, but Eric will ensure funds are found to balance this out.
 - Maritime Cup: \$1,200 was lost due to allowing Jackrabbits to participate without charging a fee. This has been resolved for the 2020-21 season by increasing the Jackrabbit fee by \$10.
 - Loppet: despite having eaten very well (spent generously on food), still managed to make a small profit.
 - Club Assets: Purchases included an event tent, new poles for the MCAF program and a small ski rack.
- Trails for Life: Ian reported that \$12,000 was received from Amateur Sport last year. Funds will be used for the ski terrain park and ski storage facility. Barb added that all individual donations towards Trails for Life have been received. Wostawea Trail Builders donations (spread over five years) will continue for two (2) more years.

- Net Earnings: \$1,800 from training budget was not used. Money was also saved on Killarney Lake lodge rentals due to COVID-19.
- Operational Funds Summary: Money will be used from the Capital Equipment Reserve to purchase a new snowmobile for the 2020-21 season. Some money will also be made once the old snowmobile is sold (amount still unknown).

5. Constitutional amendments – John Ball, Donald Wright

- John explained that as the club has grown and more services are being offered, the executive has also grown and identified areas where more help is needed. These needs are reflected in the proposed constitutional amendments.
- Amendments to the constitution:
 - Added Member Engagement Lead position, renamed some other positions (“coordinator” titles updated to “lead”)
 - Renamed Cross Country Canada to Nordiq Canada
 - Minor copy edits
- Don invited members to comment and ask questions. Ida suggested a few minor copy edits, which John recorded.
- Ian Burgess motioned to approve the amended constitution, Michel Poirier seconded. All in favour. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Election of new executive members – Milda Markauskas

Before Milda conducted the election, John explained that the nominations are being made for a combination of one (1) and two (2) year terms to ensure position terms are on staggered years (as per the constitution).

- **Don Wright** was nominated and acclaimed for the position of President for a two-year term.
- **Eric Luiker** was nominated and acclaimed for the position of Vice President for a one-year term.
- **Nicki Violette** was nominated and acclaimed for the position of Secretary for a two-year term.
- **Ian Burgess** was nominated and acclaimed for the position of Treasurer and Registrar for a one-year term.
- **Michel Poirier** agreed to let his name stand and was acclaimed for the position of Youth Programs Lead for a one-year term.
- **Eric Luiker** agreed to let his name stand and was acclaimed for the position of Competitive Program Lead for a two-year term. John noted that there is a provision in the constitution that the same person can hold two positions.
- **Barb Ramsay** agreed to let her name stand and was acclaimed for the position of Communications Lead for a one-year term.
- **Nadya Ladouceur** agreed to let her name stand and was acclaimed as Membership Engagement Lead for a one-year term.

John thanked Milda for all of her hard work throughout the years.

Summary of Executive

President: Donald Wright (two-year term)

Vice-President: Eric Luiker (one-year term)

Past President: John Ball (two-year term)

Secretary: Nicki Violette (two-year term)

Treasurer and Registrar: Ian Burgess (one-year term)

Youth Programs Lead: Michel Poirier (two-year term)

Competitive Program Lead: Eric Luiker (two-year term)

Communications Lead: Barb Ramsay (one-year term)

Member Engagement Lead: Nadya Ladouceur (one-year term)

Trails Lead: David Cameron (serving second year of two-year term)

7. Updates on 2020-21 season planning – Donald Wright and new executive

- Don thanked John for his six years of service as president.
- Don reported that planning is well underway for the 2020-21 season, and the primary focus currently is on developing COVID-19 operational plans.
- Operational plans will be required for all programs and events including: Jackrabbits/Track Attack, the Racing Team, the MCAF program, the Maritime Cup, the Sprint Event and the Loppet.
- Direction for the operational plans is being taken from Public Health, CCNB, Nordiq Canada and the City of Fredericton.
- Plans are being developed in real-time by a sub committee meeting each week. Sub-committee members: Don Wright, Mary Luiker, David Cameron, Nadya Ladouceur and Michel Poirier.
- Some key differences for the upcoming season:
 - Killarney Lodge will be open to a very limited number of people (maximum eight (8) downstairs and twenty (20) upstairs)
 - No mass group warm-up
 - Hot chocolate will be distributed outdoors
- Specific details are still being finalized but planning is proceeding at pace. While programs will look quite different this year, there is confidence that it will be another great season focused on fun and safety.
- Races will be a challenge logistically (number restrictions in the stadium, handling bibs and chips, etc.), but will be figured out.
- Dates have been set for the Maritime Cup, Loppet, lessons and Fun Day.
- Registration is now open. Demand for lessons is extremely high (maxed out within 24 hours) and it is still to be determined how to best to deal with this, particularly kids who participated last year and have not yet registered this season (want to ensure they can continue to move through the program).

8. Questions from members

- **COVID Funding Support:** Nathalie pointed out that there are funds available from the Province for sports organizations with extra expenses due to COVID (e.g. larger or longer rental space needs) and offered to send the web links providing more details to Don following the meeting.
- **Senior Ski Group:** Milda asked whether Killarney lodge will be available for use by the senior ski group. Don replied that while it will be booked for specific events, entry will need to be monitored to ensure City guidelines are being followed. Logistics of how this will work are still being determined. Milda will inform Ernie MacGillivray about the lodge number limitations and added that he should be involved in discussions moving forward as the group leader. Other considerations for the senior ski group mentioned:
 - Outdoor washrooms (which are heated) will be available for use
 - Individuals will need to bring their own snacks (no sharing)
- **Operational Plans:** Ian asked when the operational plans are expected to be ready.
 - Jackrabbits/adult program plan: expected in the coming weeks (waiting on the provincial sub-committee)
 - Events plans (e.g. Maritime Cup): will come later (waiting on guidance from Nordiq Canada)
- **Impact of COVID on skiing:** Katrina asked if there is a risk of skiing being halted should COVID numbers increase in the region. Don replied that if Fredericton returns to the red phase, all sports programs will be stopped, and if another zone moves to red, athletes from that region will be unable to travel to other zones to compete. Katrina asked if this means trails would be unavailable even for recreational use, as this would be a financial risk for the club. Don was unsure. Should the City close the Killarney trails, the club will need to determine if grooming in the Woodlot should continue. Cues on this will be taken from Public Health.
- **Outdoor infrastructure at Killarney:** Katrina asked whether the City is considering adding additional outdoor infrastructure at Killarney (e.g. benches). The club will be requesting extra picnic tables for the stadium area (for putting on boots, hot chocolate time, etc). The idea of purchasing of a large tent (such as those used for Harvest Jazz & Blues) was also investigated; however, it was decided that would be too expensive and there are too many environmental factors and winter weather concerns (e.g. snow load and extreme wind). Eric noted that while non-permanent infrastructure (such as benches) are doable, permanent infrastructure (such as a building) is unlikely (the process is much larger).
- **Wostawea Strategic Plan:** Eric asked whether the strategic plan has been put on hold until the COVID work is complete. This is the case; however, much progress

has already been made since the strategic plan was launched last year and it is likely that progress will continue naturally.

- **Ski terrain park:** Eric reported that the City is moving ahead with the ski terrain park and asked if it is known how much will be contributed from the Trails for Life budget, as this information would be helpful for the City to know. Ian will investigate and confirm.
- **Storage building at Killarney:** Milda asked if the City would allow the storage building at Killarney to be used as a space for skiers to warm up/get ready. The City has been asked and said no, as it is an operational building. The empty house next to Killarney is also not an option (it is condemned).
- **Maritime Cup point system:** Margaret asked if there is a need to relook at how points are awarded for the Maritime Cup, as the current system seems to favour Wostawea winning. The point system is such that clubs are only awarded points based on their top 10 results for the day, so as long as clubs have 10 good skiers participating, there is equal opportunity to win. Nadya suggested Wostawea's success may be due to the club having more adult skiers, however David replied that this is not the case as Charlo and Halifax are generally faster than Wostawea in the adult categories.
- **Woodlot parking & access:** Margaret asked if anything is being done regarding parking and access to the Woodlot. David answered that 'no parking' signs have been put up on the New Maryland highway and conversations have taken place with Woodlot stakeholder groups on how to improve parking and access. There is buy-in, but it is unlikely changes will be made this year.
- **Killarney Trails:**
 - Margaret asked if any new trails are being developed at Killarney. The creation of a trail at the end of Stumpy to 7 was considered but decided against. This is on the City's wish list and may be done next year.
 - Jean-Claude asked about work planned for existing trails, as he noticed some are now significantly wider. David replied that the City widened trail 7 to fix drainage issues and parts of trail 6 to remove overhanging trees, but he is unaware of further plans to widen.
- **Coach Development:**
 - Anna asked what training opportunities are available for coaches this year. She suggested some older athletes on the Racing Team may be interested in getting involved and could then assist with Track Attack.
 - Michel shared two scheduled training dates:
 - Jan. 23: Community Coaching Course (first step for young adults)
 - Nov. 24-25: Learn to Train Course (must have Community Coaching first)
 - Michel will confirm the session age requirements and mentioned course costs could likely be subsidized.
 - Eric added that providing coaching development has come up many times in conversations about how to improve skiing in the province. He is

taking a Facilitators Course in January that will allow him to teach Community Courses, which will help expand training opportunities.

- Nadya suggested including training opportunities in the newsletter. This may help recruit coaches.
- Eric added there are plans to have an executive member in charge of ensuring the club has the appropriate coaches and training for the programs being offered.

9. Closing remarks – Donald Wright

- Don thanked everyone for attending the meeting and advised that more details would be provided soon.
- Motion to adjourn by Anna Healy, seconded by John Ball.