



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2019, STARTING AT 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 2
Present:	
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	2
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	2
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	2
Member at Large, David Powe	2
Member at Large, John Hammons	2
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	2
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	2
Regrets:	
WORCA, Matt Cooper	0
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	1
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	1
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif	1

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of February 13, 2019.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Rankin
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of January 9, 2019.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council:

- Budget proposal 2.9% property tax increase
- OCP moving forward
- SLRD regional growth strategy amendment approved; strategy points to continued growth in corridor with increasing pressures on recreation infrastructure
- Letter campaign underway to encourage businesses to close doors

AWARE:

- Grant writing, recruiting for core team

WORCA:

- N/A

RMOW:

- Wildfire fuel thinning project underway along Cheakamus Lake Road. RMOW and CCF partnering on it.
- RMOW, Conservation Officer Service and Recreation Sites & Trails BC are collaborating on a grizzly bear conflict mitigation plan for Whistler alpine trails. Ready for 2019 summer season.
- Parks Planning will develop a Recreation Trail Access Management Plan and e-Bike policy in 2019.
- Trail Planning Working Group scheduled to meet next in April

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Fuel thinning underway on Cheakamus Lake Road which will be closed until spring 2019.
- Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) application submitted to fund project above Rainbow subdivision.

E-Bike Policy

A presentation by Martin Pardoe, Resort Parks Planning Manager, was given regarding the draft e-bike policy and a discussion was held.

- Goal is to develop mechanisms to guide use of electric mobility devices on valley trail and off road trails; Cheakamus Community Forest acts as boundary; Phase 2 community engagement in process
- Next steps: draft regulatory mechanisms (March/April 2019)
- Draft policy direction proposes Class 1 e-bikes permitted on valley trail and all mountain bike trails except above Flank Trail, Emerald Forest other than the main connection between Lorimer Rd and Alta Lake Rd and other identified sensitive areas. Class 2 and 3 not permitted in most areas. Fees for commercial users is proposed. Policy to be introduced for a test period with ongoing monitoring.

Discussion:

- If unidirectional trails are built for e-bikes, result is more trails built, more habitat fragmentation, more maintenance required. Consider widening or re-routing valley trail and other existing trails.

- The policy is focused on recreational e-bike use rather than commuting opportunities. Valley Trail is a multi-use trail, not a dedicated commuter facility. That said, people have been and will continue to use the Valley Trail for commuting and transportation purposes, often in the same trip. The preferred approach will be to encourage bicycle commuters and higher speed cyclists to act responsibly and either respect other users or use roadways instead of the valley Trail. The RMOW has a Transportation Cycling Network Plan in the draft OCP which includes the Valley Trail and roadways. Current e-bike policy will remain focused on recreational use.

C. Rankin left at 4:00 p.m.

- Policy provides framework for managing increasing commercial use of Valley Trail and reducing the potential for conflict.
- Discussion regarding potential negative effects of dispersing users as per Objective #12. Staff will discuss further with Tourism Whistler.
- Discuss regarding ability and usefulness of providing general use and timing guidelines. Need to encourage responsible use.
- Discussion regarding the ability to enforce the rules. Section 52 non-motorized trails can be enforced by Rec Sites & Trails BC. RMOW can enforce its own bylaws. Social pressure will have a role. Alpine trails are already non-motorized so installation of a sign will enable enforcement. WORCA is supportive of no e-bikes in the alpine.
- Opportunities for further input include a public open house and survey in mid-March.

OTHER BUSINESS

- March agenda – grizzly bear alpine trail management plan
- Singing Pass trail sign on highway 99 is obsolete since there is no trailhead anymore. Recreation Trails Access Management Plan will address. Federation of Mountain Clubs is leading campaign to regain access from Blackcomb mountain side past IPP, across the creek and reconnect with old trail. Access from Blackcomb Mountain side is difficult due to private road through sliding centre and need for expensive bridge across Fitzsimmons Creek.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong

Seconded by J. Hammons

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of February 13, 2019 be terminated at 4:27 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford

