

**River Valley Cycling Inc**

**2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**2 March 2021 at 7-8 pm**

at Signature Sound Studio

via Teams

Present in person: Melissa Bordage, Bev Bunker, Christian Charette, Chris Furlotte, Max Guerette, Chris Norfolk, Nick Russon, Norman Siebrasse,

1. Announcements

Chris N played the “Who is RVC?” video. He explained that it had been made last summer and would be formally launched in the spring. It will be used to build membership and introduce ourselves to potential partners. Chris N thanked East Lens Media for their excellent work in producing the video.

Melissa thanked all our sponsors who have continued to support RVC over this difficult past year.

2. New Business

1. Membership Report

Norman presented the current membership report, noting that we have 550 general members this year. He noted that after ten years of steady growth, membership appears to have levelled off at about 600 members over the past couple of years.

(b) Financial Report

Norman presented a detailed financial report including comparative revenue and expenses relative to last year. He noted that while we ran a deficit in 2019-20, we ran a surplus in 2020-21, and we are doing well at balancing our budget over the medium term.

In respect of income, Norman noted that we had no summer events this year due to Covid-19, but Tour de Beer was very successful once again, bringing in $970 for Winterbike, despite having been run under the Covid-19 protocol. Norman noted that we had received a $5000 grant from Velo NB, as well as a $6600 grant from the NB government Trail Infrastructure Fund for work at Wooly. Norman noted that our membership revenue was very healthy and largely compensated for our lost event revenue. This reflects many members providing support by upgrading their membership tier. Norman thanked all the members who had supported us.

In respect of income, Norman noted that RVC is very lean, with most of our expenses going to trails. The administrative expenses were higher than usual this year because of the cost of the Who is RVC? video. Insurance is a major expense, and is necessary for the continued operation of the trails, as landowners generally want to make sure we are insured before giving permission to use their land.

In respect of trails, the largest expense was the work at Penniac, though this is offset by the Remsoft contribution of $5,000 which was received last year. Another major expense was work at Woolastook, which is substantially offset by the $6600 TIF grant. We also installed signage at Islandview, which was almost entirely paid for by MCFT.

(c) Winterbike Report

Dan Breau (remotely) provided a winterbike report. He noted that we are now grooming at two locations, MVP and Woolastook. He thanked all the volunteer groomers who have put in many hours of time. He also thanked RVC for its continued support for Winterbike, including ensuring support out of the general revenue if necessary.

(d) Trails

Penniac – Chris F reported on the major project that had been undertaken at Pennaic, with the cooperation of the landowner. There is a new climb trails and a new downhill flow trail. The flow trail is almost complete with a small amount of work to be done at the bottom. We expect some settling from frost this year, but that is normal for a new mini-ex trail. Chris F emphasized that the trail is not yet open and it will remain closed until signage and other safety issues are finalized, but we expect it will be open in early summer. There will be an announcement at that time.

MVP – Bev reported that last year was difficult in some respects, as we lost access to Larry Wilson’s land, and there was also a rash of vehicle break-ins at the parking area. On the other hand, a new trail, Slash and Berm, was completed through the clearcut, thanks largely to Alex Frank. Going forward we do not expect much new trail work at MVP and we will focus primarily on maintenance and repair of existing trails.

Mactaquac – Bev reported that Rob Lemmon, the Park Manager at Mactaquac, is very keen to put in place an extensive network of trails for both winter and summer. Bev has been out scouting lines and there are already 3 km of trails laid out. We expect this to become another very significant trail system, with significant initial progress in 2021.

(e) 2021 Projects and Priorities

Chris N provided an overview of our updates and priorities for the upcoming year, including planned work or opportunities at Woolastook, Mactaquac, Islandview, Odell, Grant Harvey, Brookside, Killarney and Penniac.

(f) Questions

Nick answered questions from the floor. One question asked whether we would be spending RVC funds at public areas such as Grant Harvey and Mactaquac. Nick explained that in some cases, such as Grant Harvey, we would expect to provide expertise and volunteer time, rather than money, but in other areas we would be open spending RVC funds, particularly as a way to leverage contributions from government and other stakeholders. Another question asked whether we had entered into formal agreements with landowners. Nick explained that at Woolastook we have a formal Licence of Occupation; at Islandview we have an informal but well-established agreement with the MCFT, which holds the Licence of Occupation for that area. In other areas, such as MVP we have informal verbal agreements. In Penniac we have formal written agreements with two landowners and informal agreements with others. We are working on entering into access agreements of some kind with all landowners, but this is a long process, especially in areas such as Penniac where there are many landowners.

(g) Election of Executive and Directors

Moved Norfolk/Bunker that the following slate be elected as the directors of River Valley Cycling for 2021-22:

President – Chris Norfolk

Past-President – Nick Russon

Vice-President – Mike Hutchinson

Secretary– Norman Siebrasse

Treasurer – Ian Groen

Risk Management – Chris Furlotte

Trails – Bev Bunker

Sponsorships – Melissa Bordage

Director at large – Adam Hadley

Motion carried.

(h) Woolastook update

Mike Hutchinson was not able to provide an update under item (d) due to technical difficulties in joining the meeting remotely. He provided an update regarding Woolastook. He noted that Winterbike has been very active at Woolastook and the parking lot is always full. New trails were built last year, and there are plans to extend the trail system to the eastern part of the Licence of Occupation, up the slope towards the lookout. While we anticipate significant work in the next year, there is considerable potential and this will be a longer term project.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was declared adjourned shortly after 8:00pm.

✦ ✦ ✦