

Bella Coola Valley Tourism

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Meeting Minutes

Location: Remote ZOOM Meeting

Date: September 1st, 2020

Call to Order:

Present: Jan P, Carsten G, Sherry C, Bobby S, Abra S, Jayme K, Tom H,

Regrets:

Absent: Chris N,

Guests:

1. Adoption of Agenda AS/ CG

2. Adoption of September's Minutes CG/ AS

3. Business Arising from September's meeting:

- The June 11th Nuxalk / COVID meeting was positive & the valley opened to tourism July 21st. The criteria was BCVT's own suggestions, emailed earlier to the membership, so no request was unexpected. The offer of making the checkpoint staff more diverse played a key role in persuading the council to re-opening the valley. A number of Directors & Members volunteered at the checkpoint during July & August. Many thanks goes out to everyone who volunteered.
- Amy of CCCTA & Jennifer Rice MLA are still researching financial aid for June & July (monthly costs, reopening expenses). I requested for dollar for dollar cancellation relief. Talks ongoing.
- **COVID-19 Preparations: PPE** Jennifer R committed to send 500 facemasks to BCVT
- Many businesses are not sending information to Nuxlak EOC, far less than promised
- Hwy 20 in the worst shape ever as of June. As of August, work was performed in the most troubled areas
- The Trails Alliance's "Adopt an Outhouse" program request was posted on FaceBook's Membership page & in an email. (*After Meeting:* Director Sherry C & Jen Sherlock each adopted an outhouse)

4. New Business:

- Overall Businesses are down an average of 80% (Marine tours are good & holding steady. Bear viewing tours looks promising).
- **Nuxalkmc** received a grant from Indigious Tourism to promote tourism. BCVT was asked to help with ideas. Any ideas are welcome. An emphasis was given to train youth in careers of tourism
- BC Ferries has been telling visitors that sailings are for essential traffic only. I called my BCF contacts but haven't heard back as of yet. I'll keep you & the membership updated with what I find out & if it can be updated soon

5. Open Forum:

Discussion included poor visitor stats and who is/isn't open. Membership surveyed. Poor response unless phoned individually.

7. Reports: President / Marketing:

- Marketing has resumed for Bear Viewing for September. Tom H spent \$20 on FB Ads specifically promoting bear viewing. Also shared information about bear viewing tour guides
- Website views down from last year
- **FSR Roads** impassible. Tom spoke with Bev at CCCTA regarding the 2019 provincial FSR Project to help with maintenance. The pilot program has just recently resumed (delay due to COVID) and it is still ongoing so no news yet. Tom also contacted Jennifer R regarding the lack of FSRs access to our most advertised spots. Jennifer asked Tom to write a BCVT letter of our concerns & why it is important. She stated she'll try & find money to help.

8. Treasurer's Report:

(Separate Email sent by Jan P) **ACCEPTED: CG / AS**

9. Adjournment: 7:55pm

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