

DRAFT

MINUTES

Heli-Ski Map Committee

Meeting Date: October November 7, 2016

Date of Approval: _____

Call to Order: A meeting of the Haines Borough Heli-skiing Map Committee was held at the Haines Public Library on November 7, 2016. The meeting convened at 5:15 p.m. Ron Jackson presided. *Note: The meeting scheduled for November 3, 2016 was cancelled.*

Members in Attendance: Ron Jackson, Sean Brownell, Meredith Pochardt, Lori Smith, Scott Sundberg.

Members Not in Attendance: None.

Meeting Notes & Motions:

NOTE: All motions made in this committee serve as recommendations to the Borough Manager and Assembly. Map proposals are not finalized until Assembly approves map changes.

AKH-1: Brownell discussed this proposal as map error, explaining that the approved area should follow the boundary of ridges Correcting it would remove approved area from the map.

Motion: Pochardt moved to remove areas on the south side of the ridge and approve AKH-1 and **Sundberg** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

S-2: Members of the public were concerned about the overlap between downhill ski areas and heli areas. **Sundberg** proposed removing a portion of the approved area to accommodate a more clear division between the two users.

Motion: Smith moved to remove a portion of the approved area and approve S-2; **Pochardt** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AKH-2: Following a workshop with the planner, **Brownell** had proposed splitting this proposal into two separate areas. AKH2a had been approved for valley pickup previously. AKH2b provides road access from Constantine and possible fuel cache – use has already been permitted by Constantine. **Brownell** proposed that road access in this area would reduce helicopter trips and reduce noise.

Motion: **Pochardt** moved to approve AKH2a and **Sundberg** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: **Sundberg** moved to approve AKH2b and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

S3: Following a workshop with the planner, **Sundberg** had proposed splitting this proposal into two separate areas. Community members noted that S3b was also used by backcountry skiers; that the area is highly valued. **Sundberg** proposed a shared use policy for S3b whereby, for example, backcountry skiers would call SEABA for a 72 hour window and SEABA would not ski in the area. Community members noted that the compromise would be acceptable.

Motion: **Smith** moved to approve S3a and **Pochardt** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: **Pochardt** moved to approve S3b with a shared use policy (72-hour window) and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AKH3: This proposal was split into two (a) and (b) proposals following a workshop with the planner. AKH3a is located across from AKH heliport and provides intermediate skiers safe slopes. **Brownell** noted that it is a two-minute flight, which reduces flying time and that the neighbors would not see heli activity because of terrain. The area provides safety during low visibility days and is not used by backcountry skiers.

Motion: **Pochardt** moved to approve AKH3a and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.\

Motion: **Sundberg** moved to approve AKH3b and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AKH4: Although the committee had agreed to alternate proposals, **Brownell** suggested addressing this proposal because he was aware of community concern. The proposal has been split into AKH4a and AKH4b. AKH4b was withdrawn by **Brownell**. After committee and community discussion, AKH4a was suggested to be approved as a one-year trial wherein the area would be removed if it caused too much noise for neighbors in Mosquito Lake. ADF&G commenters **Sell** and **Koch** were confident that there are bear dens in the area and that a 1500 buffer of dens would strongly discourage heliski use. **Sundberg** noted that the committee has not yet been presented with hard data on the matter and ADF&G confirmed that data would not be presented until Spring 2017.

Motion: **Sundberg** moved to approve AKH4a with the conditions that (1) it be a one-year trial and (2) that the area would not be used if community members

Next Meetings and Review Schedule:

November 21, 2016 5:00pm Library Conference Room S4-7 & AH5-7 (alternating)

Meeting Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Holly Smith, Haines Borough Planner