



STATEMENT –

Open House Meeting with RDOS – October 20, 2010

The Anarchist Mountain Community Society (AMCS) is a not-for-profit society registered under the BC Societies Act. Our mission and purpose is to work towards building community spirit and to work towards the conservation of the natural environment on Anarchist Mountain. As of tonight, the AMCS has 74 families as members. There are about 100 homes in the Anarchist Mountain / Sidley Mountain area. We provide information and community services to anyone who owns property in the Anarchist Mountain / Sidley Mountain area whether they are members of our Society or not.

The AMCS fully supports this Open House Meeting to allow the RDOS to present its position to the general public on the need, rationale and possibilities for park lands to be dedicated on the Mtn. We encourage Director Pendergraft, and RDOS staff to consider all sides of this issue and to make prudent policy decisions based upon the concerns and wishes of Mountain residents and owners.

The Anarchist Mountain Community Society (AMCS) conducted a poll of residents & owners in August. In the preamble of that questionnaire we outlined that currently conservation lands in the Regal Ridge development, were the private property of Regal Ridge, and that access to those lands is at the pleasure of the owner. We asked respondents what their opinions were about RDOS owned public parks on Anarchist Mtn. We received 44 responses. There are about 60 homes within the Regal Ridge development, and 30 – 40 within our Societies area of interest, which is from below Hallis Rd. to Anarchist Summit on Highway 3. We feel that we reached most of the owners who are interested, and that getting a response of 44 returns is a significant sample.

Of those 44 returns 37 respondents or 84% oppose community parks on Anarchist Mountain.

The position of the Society is that we oppose public parks on Anarchist Mountain. This position of the AMCS, based upon our residents / owners poll, which told us that:

- Respondents have a major concern over increased fire risk due to public parks
- They believe the public will not be respectful of environmentally sensitive areas
- Respondents do not support any new Community Service costs being added to their taxes, and do not feel that a “no spend commitment” in 2010 will necessarily be the RDOS policy in the future.
- Respondents strongly oppose that the conservation area trails becoming RDOS park lands. Owners are opposed to more public access encroaching on their properties and are concerned about increased fire hazards.
- Respondents also do not agree that there is a NEED for community parks on the Mountain at this time



- Community respondents appear satisfied at this time with the conservation areas developed & managed by Regal Ridge, and generally have responded that they believe they serve the community well

In an effort to assure owners and residents that they do have access to the conservation lands owned by Regal Ridge, in the past several weeks the Board of Directors of the AMCS has been in discussions with Adrian Erickson, the owner of Regal Ridge, and the owner of 3,000 acres of conservation lands on the Mountain.

We have developed an Agreement in Principle which will form the principles to amend the existing Stewardship Agreement that has existed between Regal Ridge and the AMCS since 2008. We are pleased to announce tonight that this agreement was signed by Mr. Erickson and the Community Society on October 18th.

This agreement will clarify that access to the conservation lands is guaranteed to Anarchist Mountain / Sidley Mountain owners and residents. The agreement also sets out which lands are available for use, who can use them and will clarify the rules are for users. The AMCS believes that this is another step forward in the continuing cooperative relationship that Regal Ridge has forged with our community.

Perhaps as significant, we feel this new agreement clearly removes the need for public park lands, owned by the RDOS on the Mountain. At the same time the Society recognizes that there may still be conservation based reasons to set aside some grassland acreage south of Caribou sub-division, to create a parking area at the end of Bull Moose Rd for access by the public to Crown Lands to the north, and consider the dedication of a building lot to someday be used exclusively for the site of a community hall. The AMCS would consider these possibilities as a benefit to the general community, and will ask our members and residents for their support if land dedication is limited to these lands. In each case, the AMCS support will be contingent upon RDOS agreeing, in some form of written covenant or agreement with the developer and the community, that improvement on those lands (i.e. spending tax dollars) will not occur without the agreement of local taxpayers.

A copy of the new Agreement in Principle, which will form our new Stewardship Agreement with Regal Ridge to allow the community use of the conservation lands, will be posted on our website before the end of this week. www.anarchistmountaincommunity.com

Thanks

Mark McKenney, President
Anarchist Mountain Community Society
c/o 324 Grizzly Place
Regal Ridge, Hwy 3 East
Osoyoos, BC , Canada V0H1V6 250-495-4592