

# 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

North Shore Mountain Bike Association

**Date:** Thursday, November 20, 2025  
**Location:** The Wallace, #300 - 125 Victory Ship Way, North Vancouver, BC  
**Chair:** Steve Lionais, President  
**Executive Director:** Cynthia Young  
**Minuted by:** Rachid Nayel  
**Called to order:** 7:09 p.m. PST  
**Attendance:** 81 in-person, 13 online via live stream.  
**Elections:** 146 members voted in BoD elections via *Member 365's* voting platform

## 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Cynthia Young welcomed attendees, thanked NSMBA partners, sponsors, donors and volunteers, and acknowledged that the Association lives and works on the stolen and traditional lands of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She described the Association's commitment to stewardship, restitution and reconciliation, including the call for a Squamish artist to contribute an installation for the new Cypress climb trail.

Attendees were invited to briefly share a recent positive experience on the North Shore trails as a reminder of the community value created by the trail network.

## 2. Call to Order and Rules of Order

President Steve Lionais called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and advised that the meeting would follow Robert's Rules of Order. He asked that questions and comments be held until formal AGM business was complete.

## 3. Motions

| Item              | Resolution                                                          | Moved by  | Seconded by  | Result  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Agenda            | Approve the agenda as presented.                                    | Ben Organ | Rachid Nayel | Adopted |
| 2024 AGM minutes  | Approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.             | Matt Bond | Raj Brar     | Adopted |
| Electoral Officer | Appoint Ben Organ as Electoral Officer for the 2026 Board election. | Raj Brar  | Rachid Nayel | Adopted |

## 4. President's Report and Governance

The Chair acknowledged the adverse impact of the January 2025 trail decommissioning controversy and related media comments. Members seeking clarity or closure were advised that a moderated opportunity for questions, statements and open dialogue would follow the formal business. Attendees were reminded to follow community guidelines and engage respectfully.

- The Board is approximately 75% through a transition from a working board to a governing board.
- Board priorities are oversight, policy, accountability and strategy, including budgets, organizational direction and evaluation of the Executive Director.
- Staff are responsible for day-to-day operations, trail programs, events, land-manager collaboration, revenue, contracts and grants.
- Directors' fiduciary obligations under the BC Societies Act include acting in the Association's best interests, safeguarding financial health and ensuring lawful and ethical operations.

The Chair recognized the service of the 2025 directors and specifically thanked outgoing directors Ali Shuparski and Ben Organ. Directors' contributions to finance, governance, communications, trail strategy, fundraising and community leadership were acknowledged.

## 5. 2026 Board Election

Five seats were originally open. Members in good standing voted electronically through Member365 and could select up to five candidates. Directors are elected for two-year terms, with staggered cohorts intended to support continuity; officer and committee roles are assigned after the election based on need and skill set. Candidates were given up to two minutes to address members, and Daniel Lui participated by prerecorded video.

The Chair reported that 16 people had applied and that 12 candidates were presented for election. A committee had reviewed the Board's skills needs, assessed applications and interviewed leading candidates. The presentation distinguished incumbent candidates from candidates identified as meeting the Board's criteria; the Chair explained that the designation was not a ranking. Skills sought included strategic leadership and governance, legal and risk management, marketing and communications, equity, diversity and inclusion, public relations and media, human resources and people management, fundraising and sponsorships, and accounting and financial management. Spoken remarks also emphasized government relations, advocacy, and knowledge of the issues and opportunities facing the NSMBA.

Candidates: Rachid Nayel, Raj Brar, Robin Donovan, Ally Dick, Brent Nichols, Daniel Lui, Jeff Horswill, Jeff Taylor, Ross Gold, Shawn Pettipas, Egor Povaliaev and Penny Deck.

## 6. 2025 Impact Report

- **Volunteer contribution:** More than 11,000 hours were recorded across the sanctioned trail network on Cypress, Fromme and Seymour.
- **Trail days:** The Association hosted more than 130 trail days during 2025.
- **Operating capacity:** NSMBA maintained a skilled year-round paid trail crew comprising Todd "Digger" Fiander, Henry Fitzgerald, Marcus Vanheyst and Rouben Price, supported by volunteer builders and a small administrative team comprising Cynthia Young, Stephanie Taylor and Gareth Critcher.

### Cypress

- The Cypress climb trail officially opened in early September after a multi-year collaboration involving the Squamish Nation, the District of West Vancouver, British Pacific Properties, community advocates, private supporters, volunteers and NSMBA staff and directors.
- Cypress activity included more than 1,200 volunteer hours, 15 trail days and 260 trail-crew hours, with work on Jersey Shore, Meat Sweats, Morgies and Mystery DH.
- Paid trail crew work helped prepare the network for the climb-trail opening and a youth downhill race attended by 22 racers aged 13 to 16.

### Fromme

- Fromme activity included approximately 3,100 volunteer hours, 73 trail days and 3,800 trail-crew hours. Fromme also hosted three of the five Fivers, the Women's+ Enduro and the Fromme Fondo.
- Major work included top-to-bottom refreshes of Espresso, Floppy Bunny and Bobsled, rebuilt Kirkford corners, continuing Pipeline woodwork, King of the Shore reroutes, and improvements in the Griffens/Roadside Attraction area.
- Brent Hillier led 17 youth stewardship trail sessions representing approximately 750 volunteer hours. The Association would like to secure dedicated funding for this program.

### Seymour

- Seymour activity included approximately 2,100 volunteer hours, 23 trail days and 1,525 trail-crew hours, as well as two of the five Fiver events.
- For the first time, NSMBA funded paid trail-crew work on Seymour through its agreement with the District of North Vancouver, supplemented by gaming-grant funding.

- Projects included the Salvation rebuild, Boogie Nights refresh, Pingu entrance, Dale's corner improvements, a Corkscrew blue line, and Empress Bypass work supported in part by a BC Parks grant.

## Committees and Volunteers

The Trails for All Committee, Events and Volunteers Committee, and Trail Working Group were highlighted as opportunities for community members to contribute outside Board or trail-builder roles. Their work includes inclusion and access, volunteer engagement, event development, trail strategy, land-manager relationships and the builder apprenticeship program.

## 7. Financial Report

Treasurer Raj Brar reported a strong financial year and thanked Stephanie Taylor and former Executive Director Deanne Cote for their work during the Executive Director transition.

| Financial snapshot (\$000s)                  | 2025  | 2024   | 2023    |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Cash                                         | \$227 | \$200  | \$240   |
| Total assets                                 | \$255 | \$247  | \$338   |
| Liabilities                                  | \$23  | \$20   | \$55    |
| Net assets                                   | \$232 | \$227  | \$283   |
| Total income                                 | \$760 | \$691  | \$580   |
| Total expenses                               | \$755 | \$745  | \$697   |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses | \$5   | (\$54) | (\$117) |

*Amounts are as at or for the year ended October 31 and are shown in thousands of dollars.*

- **Cash position:** Cash was \$227,000 at October 31, 2025. With a baseline monthly operating burn of roughly \$40,000, this was described as approximately five months of operating coverage.
- **Cost management:** The organization focused on reducing expenses, preserving cash and managing liquid capital productively while maintaining the capacity to pay staff and complete trail work.
- **Revenue mix:** Government and District revenue was \$309,000; Membership and Trail Boosts were \$191,000; TAP and Sponsorships were \$136,000; Donations were \$103,000; and Events, Merchandise and Interest Income were \$21,000.
- **Expense mix:** Trail Crew, Contractors and Administrative Staff costs were \$630,000; Trail Supplies and Administration were \$110,000; and Events and Merchandise expenses amounted to \$15,000.
- **Grant strategy:** The Finance Committee increased its focus on grant applications and on using the Association's charitable status to expand funding.

No motion to receive or approve the financial statements was captured in the recording.

## 8. 2026 Priorities

- Achieve a break-even financial position.
- Reach at least 4,000 members to strengthen operating revenue and the Association's advocacy voice.
- Record 15,000 volunteer hours, including hours that may previously have gone unreported.
- Deliver six Fiver events: two on Fromme, two on Seymour and two at locations to be confirmed.
- Refocus resources on trail work, volunteerism and community-building.

## 9. Trail Strategy

Mike Nelson and Trail Director Henry Fitzgerald presented the Trail Working Group's developing strategy under the Responsible Land Use pillar. The objective is a common, long-term framework for planning, maintaining and improving trails across three mountains, multiple Nations and multiple land managers.

- Community survey feedback called for more trails, more blue-level options and improved maintenance, while also raising concerns about trust, communication and advocacy.
- The group is identifying project and approval bottlenecks and working to establish clearer, more consistent processes with builders and land managers.
- Early relationship-building with the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations is intended to be based on listening and knowledge-sharing.
- The proposed decade-long planning framework includes trail-difficulty mapping, long-range maintenance planning, refined development tools, and consolidated trail data and inventories.
- The strategy is intended to be informed by the community, trusted by riders and builders, and aligned with land-manager requirements.

## 10. Election Results

A tie occurred for the final available position. As the Association is permitted to have up to 12 directors, the Chair announced that both tied candidates would be seated, increasing the planned 2026 Board from 10 to 11 directors. The six successful candidates were:

- Rachid Nayel
- Raj Brar
- Robin Donovan

- Brent Nichols
- Jeff Taylor
- Penny Deck

The Chair thanked every candidate and committed to contacting those not elected to identify other opportunities to contribute, particularly through Board committees.

## 11. Action Items

| Action                                                                                                                            | Owner                                   | Timing      | Status      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Contact candidates not elected and identify suitable committee or volunteer roles.                                                | President / Board                       | After AGM   | Open        |
| Prepare and manage the 2026 operating plan to a break-even target.                                                                | Board, ED and Finance Committee         | 2026        | Planned     |
| Build membership to at least 4,000.                                                                                               | ED, staff and Board                     | 2026        | Planned     |
| Improve volunteer-hour capture and work toward 15,000 recorded hours.                                                             | Staff, builders and volunteers          | 2026        | Planned     |
| Plan six Fiver events across Fromme, Seymour and two locations to be confirmed.                                                   | Events and Volunteers Committee / staff | 2026 season | Planned     |
| Advance the ten-year trail strategy, including approvals, inventories, maintenance planning and land-manager alignment.           | Trail Working Group                     | Ongoing     | In progress |
| Continue relationship-building with the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and progress the Cypress art-installation initiative. | ED / Trail Working Group                | Ongoing     | In progress |
| Seek dedicated funding for the youth stewardship program led by Brent Hillier.                                                    | ED / Fundraising                        | 2026        | Open        |

## Resources

Published recording: [NSMBA 2025 Annual General Meeting](#)

Official agenda: [2025 AGM Agenda](#)

Supporting presentation: [2025 AGM Presentation \(provided by NSMBA\)](#).

Election candidates and results: [2025 Board candidates](#) and [2026 Board announcement](#)