

## Minutes of the statutory GA of Verco R2 - Saturday 15.2.2020

1. The minutes of the statutory GA of 23.2.2019 were unanimously approved.

### 2. President's Report

- At the statutory AGM of 23.2.2019, it was decided to buy 5 shares at CHF 1,000 to enter the share capital of SA Tourisme Vercorin. After some pressure from the Municipal Authorities and also thanks to a wide distribution of the November 2019 newsletter, our presence on the Board of Directors was accepted after some initial hesitation. Jacques Perret is now our representative. The Board began its work in December 2019. The first measures taken are essentially of an organisational nature and concern the internal functioning of the SA and the tourist office.  
During this AGM, we refused to discuss the proposal of the tourist tax because of a lack of information.
- The assembly of 19.4.2019 (Easter) was devoted to a lecture by Christophe Clivaz, Professor at the Institute of Geography and Sustainability at the University of Lausanne - Site de Sion. He shared with us his thoughts on mountain tourism.
- During the GA of 19.10.2019, we took note of the project of the tourist tax which was then accepted by the primary assembly of the Commune. It came into force at the beginning of 2020.
- Last year, the Committee met 5 times: on the day of the GA, during the summer and between Christmas and New Year.
  - It took note of the meeting of a delegation of the Verco R2 Committee with the President and Director of the Vercorin Cable-Car Company. The president of the Vercorin Cable-Car Company, after having initially favoured the presence of a representative of the R2 on the Board of Directors and having proposed this meeting for this purpose, has informed us that this is no longer possible, as it would not be “advisable” to change the composition of the Board of Directors in view of the work that is about to begin (Tracuit chairlift - Mont Major). We took note of this decision, while being surprised, not having understood the reasoning very well and with quite a lot of disappointment in view of this decision, which reminds us of a way of functioning of yore. It should be recalled that around thirty members of Verco R2 are shareholders, the majority with 1 to 15 shares, for a total of around CHF 250,000 of equity.
  - At the request of a student of the HES VS, we circulated a survey last year. Unfortunately, despite her promise, we have not received any feedback on the results of this survey.
  - The Committee has had many exchanges with the Municipality to receive sufficient information concerning the tourist tax.
  - The control of the payment of the contributions to the VercoR2 association takes quite a lot of time. Prompt payment of the contributions would avoid rather tedious

control work. For those who do not use electronic payments, it is still possible to pay the contribution at the assemblies in cash.

- Last year, we met with the president of the R2 of the Val d'Anniviers. The summary of this meeting can be found in the November 2019 newsletter.
  - Martine Favarger is our representative at the Société de Développement / Development Society (SD, or DS when using the English acronym). Given that the SD / DS will no longer deal with the collection of the tourist tax, it must define a new identity in collaboration with the Municipal Authorities and the SA Tourisme Vercorin.
- Issues to be discussed during the year 2020
    - As soon as the SA Tourisme Vercorin has found its “cruising speed”, we will resume the discussion concerning reciprocal services.
    - Other subjects to be discussed are: water, sewage and garbage taxes, knowing that secondary home owners of the Val d'Anniviers get taxed by a factor of 0.3 in relation to permanent residents. This explains the fact that such utility taxes in the Val d'Anniviers are about 30% lower than those in Vercorin.

### **3. The accounts**

Income from membership fees amounted to CHF 5'100 and outflows, including the purchase of the 5 shares at CHF 1'000 to join the SA Tourisme Vercorin, amounted to CHF 6'955. Taking into account the balance carried forward, the amount on the account at year end 2019, stood at about CHF 1'400.

The accounts were approved by the auditors.

The accounts were accepted.

### **4. The committee's discharge was accepted**

### **5. Determining the amount of contributions**

A contribution of CHF 200 to Verconews was accepted. The members who attended the AGM confirmed that they like to have an aperitif at the end of our meetings. It was also considered desirable for the Association to have liquidities between CHF 5'000 and CHF 10'000 francs. The amount of the contribution is maintained at CHF 50 per person.

### **6. Election of the Committee**

Due to a new professional activity, Renato di Gisi has resigned from the Committee. We thank him for the work he has done.

Claire Joudié-Papon, Martine Favarger, Jacques Perret, Michka Kovats and Andreas Saurer have agreed to continue their mandate. Denise Vallat-Packer agreed to join the committee. The new Committee was elected by acclamation.

**7. Election of the Chairman**

Andreas Saurer agreed to remain in office and was re-elected by acclamation.

**8. Election of Auditors**

Yves Meylan and Michel Fatton agreed to continue their mandate as auditors.

**9. Date and time of the general meetings and publication of the list of Verco R2 members**

As for the time of the meetings, there was almost unanimous agreement that 5 p.m. should be maintained for our AGMs.

As for the alternative dates which were proposed, here are the results of the votes of the 33 people present at the AGM:

- Christmas/New Year 14
- February 31
- Easter 21
- Summer 12
- October 19

Aware that the fact that the preferences expressed by those attending at this February AGM suffer from a selection bias, it was decided to conduct an email survey among Verco R2 members asking them to give a first and second choice (provisional figures). 48 members have voiced their choices :

First choice:

- Christmas/New Year 10
- February 24
- Easter 5
- Summer 6
- October 3

Second choice:

- Christmas/New Year 6
- February 12
- Easter 9
- Summer 10
- October 10

Adding up the votes during the AGM (33 members) and the poll (48 members) yields a total in excess of 80 votes. Yet, if we take into account some double-counting (some members have both voted at the AGM and they have also replied to the poll), the “true” number of voting members is probably at around 60. Using the combined data, the number of votes per date are as follows:

- Christmas/New Year 30
- February 67
- Easter 35
- Summer 28
- October 32

***The choice of February is clearly preferred as the date of the AGM.*** The preferred date for an additional GA is less clear, with a likely preference for Easter.

The wish was expressed to send the list of the hundred members of Verco R2 (name and surname) to the members of our Association. The question was asked whether any member would like his or her name not to appear on the list. **Nearly all members have provided their consent.**

#### **10 " Charter for the development of tourism in Vercorin ".**

There was no opposition to this project. On the other hand, complementary objectives were proposed, such as combined ticket such as the one currently being offered by the Swiss Railways in conjunction with Verbier, a greater emphasis on cultural events, the further development of hiking trails in summer and the organisation of a kind of "taxi service" inside the village. It was also pointed out that this charter is based on the same mindset as the Masterplan, the basis of SA Tourisme Vercorin. However, the question arises as to its practical application. To this end, it was proposed to bring in someone who could help us think about the practical application of the energy transition for a touristic village such as Vercorin. From the practical point of view of 4-season tourism, the question also arises of integrating the future Tracuit - Mt Major chairlift into summer tourism to avoid the investment of these CHF 12 million only being used for winter tourism.