

## RAIL TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

September 7th, 2007

9:30 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor Bill Davis, Councillor Cheryl Murdoch, Mike Burke, Pamela Marsales, Ken Hoeverman

**Regrets:** Andy Chvedukas, Thom Lambert

**Staff:** Samantha Davies - Haliburton Highlands Trails & Tours Network  
Tegan Moratz - Haliburton Highlands Trails & Tours Network

**Guests:** James Rogers – County By Law Officer

#### **Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Davis welcomed all to the meeting and called it to order.

#### **New Committee Member Proposed**

It was noted that the Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network would need to appoint a new representative to the Rail Trail Committee to replace Kate Hall. Trails and Tours will be asked to nominate a new representative.

#### **Rail Trail Surface Report**

It was suggested that compacted limestone fines be applied to the surface of the Rail Trail to make it harder and more accessible to all users. The limestone packs down hard and flat. The costs and timelines associated with applying limestone fines to the surface of the Rail Trail will be researched. It was discussed that a test run first would be worthwhile. Limestone would ideally be placed on a kilometre or two of trail to see how well it withstands the current rail trail usage. The Committee believes that the Murray Cowen section of the Rail Trail would be the best spot for the test trial of the crushed limestone fines. This type of surfacing will require less maintenance.

It was commented that all Rail Trails across the province should have the same standards when it comes to usage and rail trail surfaces.

#### **Bridge Repairs And Clean Up**

It was suggested that it would be useful to review what other communities have accomplished in terms of enhancing the appearance of bridges through restorations, but also noted that there is a limited tax base from which to draw upon for these types of projects.

##### **a) Howland Bridge Discussion;**

In terms of the repair of the Howland Junction Bridge, it was noted that the HATVA contracted to have the bridge decking refastened using 5-inch nails. Consideration of the necessity of removing the initially installed 3-inch nails was discussed.

**b) Gelert Bridge Discussion;**

It was noted that there is a 3 to 4 inch gap down the centre of the bridge. In order to rectify this situation, the HATVA has offered to investigate and take proper measures to fix this including the possibility of putting fillers in the gap.

It was noted that it is the County's responsibility to clean up the left over materials from the bridge repair.

**Adrenaline Project Report**

The Filming of the Adrenaline Project went off without any problems. The Trail was not affected in anyway and the film crew did an amazing job cleaning up after themselves. Trails and Tours as well as the Rail Trail Committee will be receiving a DVD of the show, and swag (t-shirts, hats, etc.). The County will also receive special thanks for allowing the filming to be done of the Rail Trail. There will be a disclaimer saying "Do not try this at home" in the credits for the show.

**Fiber Optic Installation Update**

The Fiber Optic has been installed. It was noted that Expertech would pay for the costs of restoring the trail (ie. Gravel and grading).

**Rail Trail General Correspondence**

It was noted that administrative staff would request a meeting with the County to review the process for responding to correspondence regarding the Rail Trail.

Correspondence was received from Shirley McCormick and it was agreed that it would be discussed at the following Committee meeting. Samantha Davies noted that she has already initiated a line of communication with Ms. McCormick and Marilyn Hubley and has advised them that the Committee will review their concerns and get back to them once a discussion has taken place.

**Trail Wardening/By-Law Enforcement**

County of Haliburton Forestry Official, James Rogers, attended the meeting in his capacity of providing contract rail trail by-law enforcement. Although Mr. Rogers is the formal By-Law officer for purposes of wardening the trail, he also contracts the services of Eleanor Reed for both forestry and rail trail enforcement purposes. Either party may attend meetings of the Rail Trail Committee when requested to give reports on behalf of the County.

The Committee has indicated that it would like to develop a strategy to crack down on illegal use of the Rail Trail. It was noted that Argos are becoming an increasing user on the trail.

If there are complaints and concerns the officers need to be made aware so that they may spend more time on the trail monitoring for offences. In terms of payment of fines issued, it was noted that the collection of fines is administered through the courts as they are charges under the Provincial Offences Act.

### **KATV Rail Trail Agreement**

Concern was brought up about the Agreement between the Haliburton Highlands ATV Association (HATVH), the County and the Kawartha Lakes ATV Association (KATVA). The KATVA still has a brochure and other advertising that states that all KATVA members can use ALL of the HATVA trails. It was clarified that KATVA can only use the Rail Trail and Crown Land, not the private property where trails are located throughout the County. It was also stated that only people with KATVA year long memberships are to be using the Rail Trail not people with weekend/or day passes. There have been many complaints from private property owners about people that are not HATVA members using the trails.

### **Special Permit Application – Canadian Motorcycle Association**

The Committee issued the Rail Trail permit to the Canadian Motorcycle Association (CMA) for their event planned to take place on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The CMA must follow all required conditions stated on the permit including the verification of insurance coverage, which has already taken place.

It was noted that the trail will not be closed during this event, thus it needs to be emphasized that the proper signage is required to be in place to warn other trail users of the event. The signs must also be removed immediately following the event.

While there have been complaints previously about the use of motorcycles on the Rail Trail, they have not been related to this particular event, but rather based on individual rider behaviour.

### **David Bishop's Rail Trail report**

The Committee reviewed Mr. Bishop's report, which outlined the potential hazards, improvements that need to be made, as well as how accessible the trail is to all user specifically mountain bikers. It was well received by the Committee. A copy of the report is available for review upon request.

### **Rail Trail Webpage**

The Trails and Tours Network is beginning a separate webpage for the Rail Trail where the public can view Rail Trail Committee Minutes, post questions, comments and concerns. For ease of administration, the Trails and Tours page can link to the haliburtoncounty.ca site where the minutes of the Rail Trail are posted once they've been approved.

### **Attendance Guidelines**

The Committee would like to review the guidelines around attendance and quorums for meetings. It was agreed that staff would send out meeting reminders a few days prior to the meeting date and committee members will be asked to RSVP at their earliest convenience to ensure that a quorum is achieved.

The Rail Trail Committee is comprised of appointed representatives from HSCA, HHTTN, HATVA and County Council, with the exception of Thom Lambert and Pamela Marsales who are appointed by name as adjacent landowners.

Samantha Davies will undertake to review the procedural and quorum requirements for this specific Committee prior to the next meeting.

**Action**

- For the following meeting Committee members are asked to review the correspondence circulated.

**NEXT MEETING:**    **Friday, November 9, 2007 @ 9:30 a.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**    Meeting Adjourned at **11:00 p.m.**

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William Davis – Chair

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Samantha Davies – Recording Clerk