

# RAIL TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008

9:30 a.m.

**Present:** Chair - Councillor Bill Davis, Councillor Cheryl Murdoch, Mike Burke, Russ Hemphill, Ken Hoeverman, Thom Lambert

**Support Persons:** Tegan Moratz - Haliburton Highlands Trails & Tours Network  
James Rogers – By-Law Officer

**Guests:** Eric Christenson

### Adoption of Agenda

Moved by; Mike Burke Seconded by; Thom Lambert

***Be it resolved that the agenda of the September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting of the Rail Trail Management Committee be approved as circulated.***

Carried

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No declaration of interest reported.

### Acceptance of Minutes from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Moved by; Ken Hoeverman Seconded by; Thom Lambert

***Be it resolved that the Minutes of the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 meeting of the Rail Trail Management Committee be approved as circulated.***

Carried

### Business Arising

#### Granite Screenings

Thom has GPS'd the exact locations point A to point B of where the committee would like the granite screenings and provided this information to Fowler Construction. The committee would also like to request to the county to build up the section of trail between the hill just after Fowler's pit to Donald at approximately 5.5 kilometres (the section around Nailer's).

#### MTO Side By Side Legislation

Side-By-Sides, two up ATVs and all other off road vehicles are permitted to legally cross roads at 90 degrees. HATVA also emphasized that the county is insured for any Off-Highway vehicle recreation that they permit such as ATVs, Two-up ATVs and Side-by-Sides. Any necessary by-law changes will be reviewed during the public meeting process.

## Rail Trail Maintenance

- Brushing still needs to be done along side the trail and especially around corners and signs for visibility.
- Tegan will be working with HATVA to repair and replace various kilometre signs along the trail.
- HATVA reported that they had recently worked on the trail for a clean-up day and were pleasantly surprised at the lack of garbage along the trail. The worst culprits were the old railway spikes and plates that we surfacing from being buried.
- The culvert(s) south of Ritchie Falls is in need of repair.
- HATVA has not put the dust controlling agent on the Rail Trail this year due to such a wet season.

## **Trail Wardening/By-law Enforcement**

HATVA noted that the number of ATVs on the Rail Trail this summer has increased quite a bit. They also reported that the club now has an ATV that the County By-Law Officer can borrow for patrolling the Rail Trail.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

From Haliburton Village to Kinmount and back (10:30 am to 3:00 pm)

- 7 walkers and 1 dog
- 4 bicyclists
- 11 ATVs (6 on the trail with valid permits and 5 parked 150 ft. down Milburn Rd.)

## Observations

- flooding and beaver dam across the trail at approximately 5.5 km mark is getting bad; virtually impossible for walkers and cyclists to cross
- many big potholes
- sections need grading
- north of Lochlin has sections where the surface has hardened into pavement and is now breaking up; some sections have sharp edges
- big tree leaning over the trail at approximately 26 km mark

Grass on the sides of the trail have grown substantially since I was last down it. The trail south of Boundary Rd. (City of Kawartha Lakes) has been brushed back.

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The Rail Trail was wardened from Haliburton to Boundary Rd. and back (10:30 AM - 2:00 PM).

- 6 ATVs with permits and 2 without (they were told to turn around and go back; no money to purchase permits; 1 ATVer was 11 years old with his mother on the other machine)
- 3 joggers
- 2 cyclists seen from the high school parking lot on the trail

## Observations

- Trail was relatively dry even at 5.5 km
- Tree still hanging over the Trail at approx. 25 km
- Many rough sections and potholes
- Tall grass/brush still has not been cut back (signs are hidden, sight line for all users is very poor and dangerous); has the County done any work on the trail?

- As of Aug. 2, no calcium has been put down due to wet conditions

## **Other Business**

### Correspondence – Anne Hodgson

Mike Burke has spoken with Anne Hodgson from the Haliburton Horseman's Association numerous times in regards to Rail Trail "Code of Conduct/Etiquette" The Horseman's Association has also expressed interest in helping HATVA warden the Rail Trail.

The Rail Trail Code of Conduct/Etiquette will be part of the public review.

### Correspondence Corduroy Enduro – Thom Lambert

Concern was brought up about the uncharacteristic behaviour of the Corduroy Enduro participants in regards to the speed of the riders along the Rail Trail. The committee decided that the event will be permitted again next year however there will be strict policies put in place for them to follow.

### Follow-up from the Crank the Shield Event

Over 275 mountain bikers saw the Rail Trail during this event. The event went over well there were no incidences. All ATVers were very polite and more then willing to change there course during the closure of the trail. It was suggested that more signage but put up in regards to the trail being closed for future events. Tegan reassured the committee that all "Crank the Shield" signage had been removed and the trail cleared of any garbage.

## **Action Items**

- Tegan will draft a signage plan for the Rail Trail
- Tegan will draft a plan for the Public Meeting(s) Process
- Thom Lambert will contact Dwayne to keep an eye on the Lochlin to Ritchie Falls section of the trail for none permitted vehicle traffic.
- Thom will contact Murray Cowan about his concerns in regards to the snowmobile activity along the Rail Trail.

## **Items Differed**

- Rail Trail Signage Plan
- Enduro Bikes on the Rail Trail

## **Adjournment**

Moved Russ Hemphill

Adjourned 11:15 am

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William Davis – Chair

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Tegan Moratz – Recording Clerk