

RAIL TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 13, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Present: Chair - Councilor Cheryl Murdoch, Councillor Murray Fearrey, Mike Burke, Ken Hoeverman, Thom Lambert, Godfrey Tyler, Russ Hemphill

Regrets: Councilor Bill Davis

Support Persons: Tegan Moratz - Haliburton Highlands Trails & Tours Network

Guests: Pamela Marsales, Peter Wood, Eric Christensen, Andy Chvedukas

Adoption of Agenda

Be it resolved that the agenda of the February 13th, 2009 meeting of the Rail Trail Management Committee be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No declaration of interest reported.

Acceptance of Minutes from November 10th, 2008

Moved by Thom Lambert; Seconded by Murray Fearrey;

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the January 9th, 2008 meeting of the Rail Trail Management Committee be approved as circulated.

Carried

Deputations

Pamela Marsales

Mrs. Marsales thanked the committee for granting the deputation request and stated that she represented the entire county population of non-motorized users comprised of approximately 80,000 people.

Pointing to research that she's completed regarding use on other similar trails, she feels that there are far more tourism dollars available for non-motorized trails in the summer than there are for motorized and that there is overwhelming evidence that shows the Rail Trail could see over a 1,000 visitors a week if it were non-motorized. She also feels that the community would benefit as there would be incremental growth along the corridor bringing new businesses to suit the needs and wants of those using the trail.

Chair Cheryl Murdoch thanked Mrs. Marsales for her presentation.

Peter Wood

Peter Wood, President of the Ontario Federation of 4 Wheel Drivers (OF4WD) attended the Committee meeting to seek support to allow the use of 4 wheel drive vehicles on the Rail Trail. This

request raised several questions that Mr. Wood will review and provide an answer at a later date relating to compatibility based on width of the vehicle, the existence of land use agreements with other Rail Trails, local representation demographics and organization information.

Business Arising

Horse and Sleigh Crossing Sign

Two signs, a Horse with Rider and a Horse Drawn Vehicle were presented to the Committee for review. The Committee directed Trails and Tours to source a sign that represented a horse and sleigh crossing if possible.

Victoria Rail Trail Surfacing Equipment

Tegan reported that in speaking with a representative of the Victoria Trail, it was confirmed that they use the same type of grader that we do to maintain their surface. Limestone fines have been added in some areas to make the trail smoother.

Letter to the Editor

A letter was submitted to the January 22, 2009 edition of the County Voice on behalf of the Committee to assuage public concern that portions of the rail trail would be closed due to a pending land transfer. Letters of concern had been previously submitted to the editor in response to public notice that a portion of land adjacent to the rail trail would be transferred. This in no way affects the use of the Rail Trail.

The Committee directed Trails and Tours to approach the County GIS Department to see if they could provide the committee with a map of the various sidings left along the Rail Trail corridor.

Trail Maintenance at the former Naylor's Road

The Committee directed Trails and Tours to draft a letter to the County Roads Department in regard to the need for trail maintenance and repairs at the former Naylor's Road.

Signage Plan

Trails and Tours will continue to work on creating a signage plan for the Rail Trail.

Rail Trail Gate/Barrier Options

Trails and Tours has been directed to contact other trail managers throughout the province and see what gates/barriers have worked and have not worked for their trail systems. They will also continue to call for quotes on the various types of gates/barriers.

Rail Trail Public Meeting Update

Copies of the Rail Trail 5 Year Master Plan Review Final Report will be mailed to each Committee Member before the next Rail Trail Meeting in March.

It was suggested that a consultant be retained to develop proposed final recommendations, but opted to wait for the completion of the review of the final report before any decisions were made.

Trail Wardening/By-law Enforcement

No report was given.

Other Business

Correspondence from James Rogers

Moved by Godfrey Tyler; Seconded by Russ Hemphill;

Be it resolved that the Rail Trail Management Committee authorize that 1 or 2 cement barriers be placed at Boundary Road during the spring non-motorized season.

Carried

Alternate Surfacing Solution Presentation

The Committee decided that Trails and Tours would meet with Jim Fairbairn, April 1st, 2009 to learn about a possible alternative solution for surfacing along the Rail Trail Corridor. Committee members are welcome to attend and will be provided with dates and times when they are established.

Action Items

- Trails and Tours will look at the possibility of having a sign created that clearly depicts a horse pulling a sleigh.
- Trails and Tours will approach the County GIS Department to see if they could provide the Committee with a map of the various sidings left along the Rail Trail corridor.
- Trails & Tours will draft a letter to the County Roads Department in regard to the maintenance being requested at Nayler's Road.
- Trails & Tours will continue to create a signage plan for the Rail Trail
- Trails and Tours will continue to gather quotes and information for the various gate/barrier solutions proposed.
- Trails & Tours will contact Jim Blake to follow-up on the status of the final report.

Items Deferred

- Enduro Bikes on the Rail Trail
- Granite Screenings

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Rail Trail Management Committee will be held March 6, 2009 from 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm in the County Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Moved By Godfrey Tyler;

Be it resolved that the Rail Trail Management Committee Meeting be hereby adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Cheryl Murdoch – Vice Chair

Tegan Moratz – Recording Clerk