

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Trails Committee
held on December 5, 2012 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Wilberforce, Ontario**

Members Present:

Chair Joan Barton
Mary Barker
Suzanne Anderson
Ken Hoeverman
George Stewart
Dale McCrea
Tammy Donaldson

Staff/Advisory Members Present:

Barry Dunford, Advisory
Earl Covert, Roads Superintendent
Laurelea Dirstein, Intern
Bonnie Pettit, Secretary

Regrets:

Ex Officio Reeve Dave Burton

The Chair called the meeting to order.

A quorum was present.

No Pecuniary Interest was declared.

Adoption of agenda: Moved by: Mary Barker, Seconded by: George Stewart

Minutes from the November 7th, 2012 meeting were accepted as circulated. Moved by: Suzanne Anderson, Seconded by: George Stewart

Reports:

- **Trail Head Signs:** Laurelea advised that she has made some minor changes to the Trailhead Signs design. Copies of the sign designs were handed out and committee members made some suggestions:
 - that the Homesteader Trail line should be thicker
 - remove the 'prohibit roadworthy vehicle' symbols on the Homesteader Trail and Prospector Trail signs but leave the symbols on the Parquin Rd. trailhead sign.Laurelea will make the changes and email the design to committee members who will provide her with feedback.
The Trailhead Sign "hats" are ready and will be picked up by Laurelea
Laurelea distributed copies of the Lumberjack Trail sign. Ken suggested the "Highlands East" name should be in larger print and any sponsors names be in smaller print.
- **Brochure Maps:** The brochure maps will be printed by a Peterborough company with a projected pickup date of December 10, 2012.
- **Parquin Steep Hill:** Earl had the County look at the hill and calculate the slope pitch. They determined that there is a 43% pitch. Laurelea researched trail standards and guidelines. The standard for off highway vehicles for a "most" difficult slope is 50% with the standard for a "more" difficult slope being 35%, which is a manageable but difficult slope.
The equestrian pitch is 15%. Tammy suggested that the trailhead sign should indicate that there is a 43% slope pitch on the hill.
The committee's goal will be to reduce the pitch by approximately 10%.

Mary suggested that Parquin Trail hill is literally “up in the air”.

Joan received an email from a Parquin Road landowner and he advised that trail users are entering the trail from Billings Lake Rd. but leaving the trail at Parquin Rd. to make their way to County Rd. 503, instead of continuing on the trail to Gooderham. Laurelea will be installing trail counters on both trail sections to determine the number of users.

- **Lumberjack Safety Signage:** Laurelea reported that there have been 13 signs installed on this trail.

There is another sign and post order to be picked up next week.

George suggested that signs/posts should be priced out at County Signs.

- **Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade:** George will supply a float trailer and banners for the parade. The banners will be decorated by Mary, Tammy and Laurelea.

New Business and Other Business:

- **2013 Grant Cycle/Meeting With MNR:** Joan reported that her meeting with the representative from Minden MNR went well. The MNR would like to share/offload responsibilities for Green’s Mountain to the Municipality of Highlands East and begin a planning process with the municipality and other stakeholders. Green’s Mountain has been used and misused by off road vehicles through adventure climbing. The MNR wants this sport to continue but to be well managed.

Highlands East would require a business plan showing that the partnership would be economical and safe. The municipality also has to deal with the municipal insurer.

The management of Green’s Mountain will be a subject of the 2013 grant application. A recreational planner would be hired to look at the Green Mountain area along with two other areas of interest – the municipally staked mining area for mineral rights located in northeast Highlands East and Silent Lake Provincial Park. There is a question as to whether trails can be established on the mining site. The Silent Lake Provincial Park area is of interest to EOTA as trail connections could possibly be created between Coe Hill and the park.

Ken and Joan are working on the draft grant application and Joan will email it to committee members for feedback.

Ken and Joan have a meeting planned for January 3rd, 2013 with a consultant to help with the preparation of the grant application for submission, with the application due date being the end of January.

A copy of the committee’s 2013 grant application will be given to EOTA to include with their regional application.

- **NOVACC:** Ken reported to the committee on the progress he is making with the workshop. It will be the first of its kind in Ontario, with people from various interest groups coming together. MNR representatives will be participating. The workshop will be based on the best practices of trails in the US and the projected date for it is April 22nd, 2013. Mary suggested that accommodations to be used should be ones located in Highlands East and that the buildings used for the workshops be the local community centres. Local auxiliary groups could be approached as to the provision of meals.

- **Letter to Gooderham (Parquin) Landowners:** Joan will be meeting with the municipal solicitor to determine how to proceed with this situation.
- **Bancroft Times Discovery Guide:** Laurelea handed out copies of the 2013 Destination Guide insert for Highlands East.
- **Trails Inspections:** Laurelea found two problem areas when she was inspecting trails this week. There are trees down on the IB&O from Farr Rd. and on Parquin Trail.

Tasks:

- Laurelea will email the amended trailhead sign design to committee members for feedback and will install trail counters on the two trail sections from Parquin Rd.
- Tammy will check out Parquin Hill re: equestrian use
- Earl will get a local contractor to look at Parquin Hill for options and costs
- Laurelea will contact County Signs for pricing
- Joan will circulate the draft of the 2013 grant application to committee members for feedback
- Earl will take care of the downed trees on the Farr Rd.- IB & O trail and Ken will check out the fallen tree situation on Parquin Trail.
- George, Mary, Tammy & Laurelea will attend to the Santa Claus Parade float along with any other committee members who are able to lend a hand

The next meeting of the Trails Committee will be Thursday, January 10th, 2013 at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Moved by: George Stewart, Seconded by: Tammy Donaldson.

_____, Chair

_____, Secretary