

Minutes
Trails Advisory Committee
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017
at 7:00 p.m. Municipal Office Boardroom

Members Present

Joan Barton
Mary Barker
Dale McCrea
Barry Lord
Peter Wood
Dave Burton

Staff/Advisory Members Present

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer
Joanne Vanier

Regrets

Mike Peters
Brian McKinlay

1. Call to order – 7:05 PM
2. Disclosure of pecuniary interest – None
3. Adoption of agenda: Moved by: Mary, Seconded by: Peter
4. Adoption of minutes: Moved by: Mary, Seconded by: Dale
5. Hike Haliburton Reports
Joanne took a group of 17 people down South Wilberforce Road for the “Way Back in Wilberforce Part 1” hike. Participants enjoyed the walk and the history.

Mary led 22 people on “Geocaching – Treasure Hunting with a GPS” hike which gave participants an introduction to geocaching. It was very well received. This was the first time Mary has served ice tea instead of hot chocolate on her hike!

Mary suggested that next year we could try to add another hike or two to Hike Haliburton, possibly the short Farr Road walking trail and/or Dillman Hill trail. She also had concerns with the online registration process, where people could sign up for hikes that they may or may not actually attend. We will follow up with Barry Martin.
6. Water Trail
Jodi Rupnow and her friend, Dawn, kayaked the river from the Dark Lake damn to just past Ted’s Lake. They suggest the difficulty level is Novice –Challenging due to the fact they had to get in and out of their kayaks often and pull themselves through jams. They would like to try the next stretch to Hadlington Road and perhaps beyond. We will invite them to attend our next meeting to give us a report on their experience.
7. Signage update
The sign for Sucker Lake is being ordered through Vista Signs in Haliburton. Cost for each trail head sign is \$300. A draft of the Dillman Hill trail head sign was presented. It should have a map that is consistent with our other trail head signs and include the usage logos. Jodi is working on brochure. We lack pictures.
Joanne will ask Jim to check on our supply of trail markers to make sure we have adequate supply to mark the trails we are about to promote.

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8. Project Pitching to Municipality

Joan reminded everyone that any organizations with an interest in Highlands East that would like municipal support on a project should bring their proposal to Joan within the next 60 days so she can pitch to council before the budget is set.

9. Report on Trail #9 –Peter & Barry

Trail #9 from the top to Telephone Bay Road is in good condition, however, from Telephone Bay Road down is very bad. Dirt was put into water areas creating large, deep mud pits. Travelling it risks seriously damaging vehicles. HATVA has concerns with the way the approx. \$90,000 was used to improve the trail. As Highlands East was not involved in the project, we will have to leave the follow up with HATVA. They are having an assessment done in the next few weeks and will bring the report to the next committee meeting.

10. Review Dale's municipal trail map

It is suggested that we create one municipal trail map showing all forms of trails (municipal, HATVA, etc.) It could identify the trails where permits are required and have information on purchasing permits. The first step will be for Peter to take the map and identify HATVA trails that they have GPS records of and then determine which trails will need to be scoped in order to map them. We will also supply Peter with Highlands East trails we have already records of.

The County worked with Highlands East last year to produce a municipal map with Homsteader and Prospector Trails marked. This may be useful as a base map to build upon.

11. Strategic Plan as relates to Trails Committee

All committee members were given a portion of the Highlands East strategic plan as pertains to the Trails Committee to review. The goals need to be updated and revised to show work that has been completed as well as future plans.

12. Geocaching Update

The GeoTour currently has 130 caches and by Oct. 21st should be at the maximum of 150 caches. The GeoTour, along with the 100 caches in the Highlands East Howler GeoArt, continues to attract a steady stream of visitors to the area, beyond the traditional tourist season into the shoulder seasons. The GeoTour has been award 6,000 favourite points and continues to be the most favoured GeoTour in Canada and 3rd in the world. Tupper T. Turtle has over 7,500 favourite points, making him the most favoured cache hider in Canada.

13. New business for next meeting.

We will invite Jodi Rupnow and Dawn to share their experience with the water trail.

Mary introduced an alternative GPS devise, Bad Elf, which may be worth investigating.

14. Next Meeting: November 1, 2017

15. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm– Moved by: Peter, Seconded by: Barry