

Minutes
Trails and Outdoor Tourism Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
at 7:00 p.m. Municipal Office Boardroom

Members Present

Joan Barton
Dave Burton
Dale McCrea
Mary Barker
Peter Wood
Mike Peters
Gerald Daviau
Guests: Steve Wilkins & Ian Hendry

Staff/Advisory Members Present

Joanne Vanier
Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer

Regrets

Barry Lord

1. Call to order – PM
2. Disclosure of pecuniary interest – None
3. Adoption of agenda: Moved by: Mary, Seconded by: Dale
4. Adoption of minutes from November 1, 2017: Moved by: Mary, Seconded by: Peter

5. Member Resignation

Mike Peters has sent his resignation via email on January 22, 2018 to the committee. He is finding it increasingly difficult going out at night and his schedule is busy with conflicting meeting dates. A report was given at the Feb. 7th council meeting.

Brian McKinlay has resigned his position on the committee. He lives a considerable distance away and has recommended that Gerald Daviau take his place on the committee as a representative of the Paudash Snowmobile Club. Gerald is recently retired and has moved to his cottage of 15 years on Esson Lake.

Moved by Peter, Seconded by Dale that we accept the resignation of Brian McKinlay and recommend to council that Gerald Daviau be appointed to the committee.

6. North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery Presentation - Steve Wilkins & Ian Hendry

Steve and Ian gave an informative presentation on the activities of the Fish Hatchery located at 140 Hysert Rd., Bancroft. All fish raised are for stocking (not for sale). This state of the art facility raises fish that are genetically compatible with native species. It is volunteer based and receives direction from the MNR regarding which lakes to rehabilitate. High school students from Bancroft come to the hatchery weekly to assist with work such as clipping fins. They have an 80% survival rate and fish are 10-12" when released.

Currently they have completed year 3 of a 5 year project stocking three lakes in Highlands East: Dark (712 fish released), Paudash (12,685 fish released), and Hudson (1,253 fish released). It was noted that zebra mussels have been found in Diamond Lake and larvae in Paudash Lake.

Rating the success of the rehabilitation is difficult, as it is for all fish hatcheries, and angler feedback is their primary source. Educational signage is planned for public access points. Guided tours of the facility are welcome by contacting the Hatchery or Ian Hendry directly.

It was suggested that Highlands East can help to promote the fish hatchery through our information kiosks and the Visitor Information Centre.

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Steve also gave a short presentation on the Bancroft Stewardship Council's development of Eagles Nest Park. There are 3.5 km of non-motorized trails. Extensive collaboration with the Algonquin community has produced story boards with the significance of the area to them as well as the geology and European settlement history.

7. HATVA Grant

Committee members received a copy of the HATVA grant application for funding from HCDC. The HCDC committee meets to review applications on February 22, 2018.

8. Review Municipal Trail Map

A large scale map of Dale's hand drawn map has been produced by the county as well as ledger size copies. We would like the large map put behind glass and mounted for future planning. The smaller maps will be laminated at Agnew's for use by committee members.

The ownership issue at the south end of Grass Hill Trail is being resolved by the municipality and should soon be completed. The trail at the end of McCrea road needs to be revisited in the spring to check on the swampy area encountered last spring. Council had mandated for this trail to be surveyed. Shannon will follow up to find the results of the survey.

In the future, it would be beneficial to use the projector to display maps we are discussing.

9. New business for next meeting.

We are hoping that Jodi and Dawn will be available to present on their water trail expedition. Earth Day clean-up on April 28th.

10. Next Meeting: March 7, 2018

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm— Moved by: Mary, Seconded by: Peter