

**Minutes**  
**Trails and Outdoor Tourism Advisory Committee**  
Wednesday, May 2, 2018  
at 7:00 p.m. Municipal Office Boardroom

**Members Present**

Joan Barton  
Dale McCrea  
Mary Barker  
Peter Wood  
Gerald Daviau  
Barry Lord

**Staff/Advisory Members Present**

Joanne Vanier

**Regrets**

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer  
Dave Burton

Guests: Jodi Rupnow & Dawn Morrill

1. Call to order – 7:10 PM
2. Disclosure of pecuniary interest – None
3. Adoption of revised agenda adding Farr Road trail concerns: Moved by: Dale, Seconded by: Barry
4. Adoption of minutes from March 7, 2018: Moved by: Dale, Seconded by: Peter

5. Water Trail Presentation - Jodi Rupnow & Dawn Morrill

In Sept-Oct 2017 Jodi and Dawn kayaked the Irondale River from the dam in Wilberforce to Gooderham in 3 trips.

**Their summary was as follows:**

- Great feeling of being in the middle of nowhere
- Water at the dam was about 4 inches deep.
- The river was quite shallow, at times forcing us out of our kayaks, especially between Wilbermere Lake and Ted's Lake
- Quite a few beaver dams but we only had to get out once, the rest we went over.
- Tons of downed trees have created many obstacles that forced us out of our kayaks repeatedly between the dam and Bill's Hills.
- Lots of little fun rapids and rocky bottom from 118 to Hadlington
- Love's/Copes Falls needs warning signage and portage route determined
- Three portages past Hwy 118 that should be cleaned up a little
- Hwy 118 access point is on Crown Land which could potentially be a camping area
- Some potential camping sites closer to Hadlington but these are on lots 23 to 25 Con 7 private lands.
- One Big mess of trees to clean almost at Hadlington
- One barking dog right before Hadlington that almost ruins the experience

**Suggestions:**

- The river is fun and scenic and you feel like you're in the middle of nowhere. It's a great attraction for our area.
- It is important that all routes be adequately described so users know what they are getting into.
- Because we were out of our kayaks more than we were in them, we wouldn't recommend the first section to most people.
- Ideally and especially since this is probably the first section users will do, we would clean the **first** section up quite a bit. **First Impressions and all...**

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Committee discussion following presentation

Joan shared that former Highlands East Trails intern, Laura Lee, visited to share her experience on the river. She is an expert kayaker and paddled from Wilberforce to Gooderham in two days in the summer of 2017. She thought the experience was wonderful and couldn't understand why we were not promoting the water trail.

With this in mind, it was decided we should change our approach to the water trail and promote it as the expert level challenge it is.

- map route with descriptions of challenges, access points, portages and camp sites
- rate sections of route between access points that are less challenging
- signage needed for portages, caution for waterfalls, water level indicators (i.e. water level at 4" poses these challenges, at 6" ...)
- taping the route using a GoPro camera would be a great way to promote the trail online

6. Update re Trail T 3.7/9 application

Regulations have been reviewed and a work permit is not needed for the work on the trail as it falls under maintenance. A response is required from MNR to confirm this to meet the requirements with HCDC.

7. Farr Road trail concerns

A land owner adjacent to the Farr Road walking trail approached a committee member very upset that the trail is now going to be used. The committee member was instructed not to get into discussions with the land owner, but to advise him to write a letter to the CAO if he wishes to file a complaint.

8. Define and assign next step re Municipal Trail Map

Sucker Lake –trail sign has been printed, but not installed. Parking is an issue that needs to be resolved. Moved by Mary, seconded by Barry that we submit the following recommendation to council: Recommend that council instruct the Road Superintendent to inspect the intersection of Loop Rad and the IB&O trail to Sucker Lake near Tall Pine Road to determine if parking for at least two cars could be created on the south side and the estimated cost. If not possible, determine if it could be created on the north side.

Carried.

Dillman Hill –a draft sign has been made, but requires a good photograph. Mary will ensure that one is taken when things green up in June. Joan will speak to the land owner at the end of the trail on Legacy Rd regarding the placement of the trail sign and parking.

Farr Road –Mary will do a write up for the trail sign and Joanne will create a draft of the sign

9. Survey Report on McCrea Rd

Deferred

10. Collect Municipal map homework

Deferred until Dave is present.

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11. Geocaching Promotion

May 12<sup>th</sup> the Geocaching Committee is hosting a daylong event in Wilberforce.

At the end of May Joanne and Mary are travelling to GeoWoodstock in Ohio to promote Highlands East to a gathering of over 5,000 geocachers

12. New Business for next meeting

Dale brought in a set of maps showing trails in Highlands East produced by Backroad Mapbooks and sold in Haliburton. There are some errors on the maps. Dale will purchase a set of these maps for committee use and bring to the next meeting.

13. Next Meeting: June 6, 2018

14. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm– Moved by: Gerald, Seconded by: Peter