



## **FOREST ADVISORY TEAM MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.**

**55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

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The Committee met at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Warden Paul Mills (Chair)  
Tanya Boniakowski (Public Member)  
Andy Kennedy (Public Member)  
Lisa Needham (Public Member)  
Heather Pady (Public Member)  
John Thomson (Public Member)

**Staff Present:** Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer  
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager  
Rebecca Whelan, Information Management Coordinator

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members – None

### **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

Johnny Yeaman, Mulmur resident, asked if the Committee would consider defining maintenance within the Terms of Reference for the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest. He also stated that before the volunteers commit to continuous maintenance, they should have safety training and the necessary certifications.

### **DISCUSSION**

1. **FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – May 15, 2018 – ITEM #1**  
**Review of Minutes – March 26, 2018 Meeting**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 26, 2018 meeting.

**Moved by Heather Pady, seconded by Andy Kennedy**

**THAT the minutes from the March 26, 2018 meeting be received for information purposes.**

**-Carried-**

2. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – May 15, 2018 – ITEM #2  
Trail Network Changes

The Committee discussed establishing guidelines for making changes to the trail network. Staff asked the Committee for input on the factors that should be taken into account when considering additions or changes to the existing trail network. Factors discussed included:

- Impact on trail intersections, particularly where trails designated for different uses intersect
  - Possibility of rebuilding intersections to increase visibility
  - Consider the safety of each user group at the intersections
- Length of the proposed change
- Safety
- Mapping

3. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – May 15, 2018 – ITEM #3  
Friends of the Dufferin County Forest Volunteer Group

The Committee discussed the draft Terms of Reference for the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest. Staff stated that the main focus at first would be trail maintenance but the group will eventually fill other roles as well.

The Committee suggested outlining a process for disagreements and indicating who has the final authority for decision making in the Terms of Reference. The Committee also suggested including an appendix with additional definitions and information in order to ensure that volunteers have a full understanding of what it means to be a member.

There was a discussion regarding insurance for the volunteers. Staff are looking into the County's insurance coverage to see if volunteers could be covered under the County's existing insurance policy.

There was also a discussion regarding recruiting for members.

The Committee discussed the possibility of developing a mechanism for assessing the skill level of the volunteers in order to ensure their safety.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee discussed ways to monitor the impact of the Recreational Use Policy, including the collection of objective data to help make more informed decisions. Ideas for the collection of baseline data included trail counters or a self-report either at the new kiosk or through a mobile app. The Committee asked that the development of metrics be a future agenda item.

The Committee also asked for an update on the trail signage. Staff reported that signage is a priority. The Committee discussed the possibility of using the kiosk at the Main Tract to display a trail map. Signage would match the colours on the existing trail map.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

The Chair opened the floor to additional questions from the public.

Craig Fleetwood, Mono resident, asked what the scope of the land that the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest would be involved with. Staff stated it would be all tracts operated as part of the Dufferin County Forest.

Stewart Dunkley, Adjala-Tosorontio resident, stated that in the United States there are plastic posts for their trail signage that bend when hit. Mr. Dunkley passed around a photo of one. He suggested that the Committee consider these posts as an option for trail signage as they can be changed easily and require little maintenance.

Yvonne Taylor, Adjala-Tosorontio resident, asked if the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest group would be made up of volunteers from anywhere or a specific user group. Staff confirmed that anyone would be welcome to join.

Ms. Taylor also asked how often the Committee would be meeting. Staff stated that the Committee will meet on an as needed basis, at least once a year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** To be determined  
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room

Respectfully submitted,

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Warden Paul Mills, Chair  
Forest Advisory Team