



DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2nd Floor)

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)

Councillors Present: Councillor Earl Hawkins

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

Sandra Kendall stated that under the advisement of the Ombudsman, she has been advised to ask whether any individuals around the table have a conflict of interest. The Director of Public Works replied that he has received concerns regarding a perceived conflict of interest. He has looked into the matter and he is confident that there have not been any decisions made where a conflict of interest was not disclosed. Ms. Kendall then asked if the County Forest Manager makes money from any events held at the Main Tract. She enquired as to what the process would be in the event that an individual has a conflict of interest. Staff explained that if an individual declares a pecuniary interest, it would be recorded in the minutes and the individual would leave the room during the discussion on that item.

Johnny Yeaman asked whether the meeting was being recorded. Staff responded that members of the public were making an audio recording and confirmed that as it is a public meeting, there is no authority to stop an individual from making a recording. The Committee objected to the recording and agreed that minutes would be sufficient. Chair Mills asked if the public members would be willing to stop recording. Yvonne Taylor and

Sandra Kendall declined to cease recording, stating that the recording was for the Ombudsman and for others who could not attend the meeting.

Caroline Fell advised she has researched and compared Friends of the Forest groups in other municipalities and found that no other municipality gives the same amount of decision making power to the Friends of the Forest as Dufferin County is recommending. She asked staff to explain the rationale for this and to explain how this makes a good business process. Staff advised that the model adopted by Dufferin County is meant to help staff implement the outstanding items of the Forest Operations Review.

Janice Clegg asked if staff could point out the single tracks on a map and indicate the orange trail. As one of the proposals speaks to the orange trail, staff asked that Ms. Clegg's questions be addressed at that time in the meeting.

Lana English asked for clarification on the term single track. The Forest Manager, stated that it is her understanding that a single track is not wide enough to drive down with a truck.

Matt Lindsay asked how the use of the trail is being enforced. Staff replied that it is not heavily enforced, although there has been a police presence on occasion. There is an expectation that users will understand and abide by the policy.

DISCUSSION

1. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #1
Review of Minutes – May 15, 2018 Meeting

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting.

Moved by Lisa Needham, seconded by Andy Kennedy

THAT the minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting be received for information purposes.

-Carried-

2. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #2
Recreational Use Policy Amendment – Guidelines for Trail Additions/Changes Decision Making

The Committee reviewed the guidelines developed from the discussion at the May 15, 2018 meeting.

Staff noted that the guidelines and any recommendations resulting from the review of the proposals in ITEM #3 would be taken to the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee in January 2019 for consideration.

Moved by Heather Pady, seconded by Tanya Boniakowski

THAT Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy 4-6-1 and By-Law 2017-39 be amended to include the guidelines for trail additions.

-Carried-

3. **FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #3**
Presentation, Discussion and Consideration of Trail Addition Proposals

Presentations were made by each individual/group who submitted a proposal with regard to additions to the mapped trail network at the Main Tract.

Proposal 1 (Sonja Wyss on behalf of the Ontario Trail Riders Association):

The Ontario Trail Riders Association are requesting a small amount of unmarked trail be preserved and designated as multi-use. The proposed trails have a combined total length of less than 7 km. They proposed that the trail be named “The Wilderness Trail” and that a minimum amount of maintenance be undertaken so that the trails remain natural. The proposal recommends the completion of a density study in order to determine the current saturation of trails within the Main Tract, as the map in the Recreational Use Policy does not include old logging roads or decommissioned roads.

Johnny Yeaman stated that he was not comfortable with the meeting being recorded and did not present his full presentation. A copy of his presentation was circulated on-desk.

Proposal 2 (Johnny Yeaman): Mr. Yeaman is proposing the addition of a trail for human powered activities. It is an existing trail that has traditionally been used for cycling trail, as the sandy soil is best suited to this type of activity. The trail bypasses existing equestrian trails which will increase safety for the various user groups. Mr. Yeaman is also proposing the creation of new trails which will link existing trails in order to avoid trails used by other groups and increase user safety.

Sue Downing stated that she was not comfortable with the meeting being recorded and asked that the recording be turned off. Chair Mills asked if the public members would be willing to stop recording. Yvonne Taylor declined to cease recording, stating they would continue to record the meeting and that the recording would not be posted publically but would be shared with those who could not attend the meeting. A copy of Sue Downing’s presentation was circulated on-desk.

Proposal 3 (Sue Downing): Ms. Downing is proposing that a trail that was temporarily marked for an event in June 2018 become part of the permanent trail network. A portion of the trail crosses into the Simcoe County Forest but County of Simcoe staff are aware of the trail and will leave the markers in place. The portion of the trail in the Simcoe County Forest is multi-use. As this trail will be used for equestrian events, undertaking trail maintenance is important as hazards or closed trails are a liability.

The Committee thanked the individuals for their proposals. They discussed the proposals based on the following merits:

- Safety
- Collaboration
- Enjoyment & benefit for all
- Maintenance and
- Impact.

Based on the comments that were received during the public feedback process for the Recreational Use Plan, the Committee felt that users were in favour of single use trails.

The Committee recommended the adoption of the following as marked on the attached maps:

- The orange trail as outlined in Proposal 3;
- The black trail as outlined in Proposal 2; and
- The creation of new trails as outlined in Proposal 2 (marked on attached map with dashed black line, dashed red line, purple, and dashed purple line).

The Committee is open to looking at new trails for equestrians in the future.

4. **FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #4**
Resignation of John Thomson

John Thomson announced his resignation from the Committee. He appreciated being able to serve on the Committee for a short time.

Chair Mills and staff thanked Mr. Thomson for his contributions to the Committee.

5. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – October 3, 2018 – ITEM #5
Next Committee Term

Chair Mills informed the Committee that since the Committee was formed late during the current Council term, staff will be recommending to Council that the current members be reappointed for the next term of Council, 2018 – 2022. Recruitment will occur in January 2019 for any vacancies.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 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