



FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

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

The Committee met at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville at 7.00 p.m.

Members Present: Councillor Laura Ryan (Chair)
Councillor Heather Hayes
Al Buck (Public Member)
Anne Marie Roussy (Public Member)
Johnny Yeaman (Public Member)
Colleen Mitchell (Public Member)
John Riley (Public Member)

Members Absent: Councillor Geoff Dunlop (prior notice)

Staff Present: Darrell Keenie, DCMA General Manager
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager
Pam Hillock, Clerk/Director of Corporate Services

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 7.00 p.m.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members (None)

1. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the members of the public in attendance.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – May 31, 2016 – ITEM #2 Recreational Use of the Dufferin County Forest

Al Buck distributed letters from various Counties that allow off-road vehicles. He suggested that if off-road vehicles were permitted in the forest that you could allow it through an organization such as the OFTR (Ontario Federation of Trail Riders). He also circulated a document entitled “Impact of Housing Developments and Trails on the Integrity of Ganaraska Forest Bird Communities”.

The committee referred to the spreadsheet prepared by staff that listed all of the various forest properties and the existing uses for the lands. The Committee also viewed a map showing the various trails.

The committee spoke about motorized vehicles being permitted in a certain area of the forest for events that are pre-planned on a trial basis.

The following points were raised during the discussion:

- need a plan that excludes motorized vehicles except on certain days in certain areas
- application and permit process needs to be in place
- suggest rules for the users for any event taking place
- main tract more suitable for off-road vehicles due to parking available
- if off-road single events are permitted will the use of rogue riders increase?
- how would the success of the single event be measured?
- keep in mind the ANSI areas (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest)
- establishment of a Recreation Committee to discuss issues pertaining to events in County Forest
- Recreation plan is about “getting people off the couch”
- how will the public be consulted? Open house type meeting at the Museum on a Saturday was suggested

3. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – May 31, 2016 – ITEM #3
Next Steps

Staff were directed to create a draft recreation policy together with a policy for issuing permits for events and a mandate for a Recreation Committee using research and best practices from other Counties and municipalities.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned (8:45 p.m.).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

.....
Warden Laura Ryan, Chair
Forest Operation Review Committee.