



FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday September 22, 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)
Al Buck (Public Member)
Colleen Mitchell (Public Member)
Anne Marie Roussy (Public Member)
Johnny Yeaman (Public Member)
John Riley (Public Member)

Members Absent: Councillor Geoff Dunlop (prior regrets)

Staff Present: Darrell Keenie, DCMA General Manager
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager
Rebecca Whelan, Information Management Coordinator

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 members of the public in attendance.

REVIEW

2. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE –September 22, 2016– ITEM #1 Draft Recreational Use of the County Forest

The Committee reviewed the first draft of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forests.

Johnny Yeaman raised concerns over the condition of the parking lot at the Main Tract with regards to horse manure being left behind in the parking lot. He asked that this be addressed in the etiquette section for riders.

The etiquette guidelines for each user group were discussed. It was suggested that the etiquette guidelines also be posted at the main entrance to the forest.

The Committee suggested that the County policies be consistent with policies and guidelines in effect in other areas within Ontario.

It was suggested that the following comments be included in the policy:

- For the protection of forest growth, no natural materials should be removed from the forest.
- All users must be courteous and respectful of other groups using the forest.
- Users must stay on the trails at all times and no new trails should be created.
- Target practice should be prohibited.

There was a discussion about whether the trails should be single or multi-use. The Committee also reviewed the use chart, provided as Appendix A of the policy.

DISCUSSION

- The Committee discussed the possibility of holding a motorized vehicles event on a trial basis or otherwise. It was suggested that motorized vehicles will not be allowed on the Main Tract except by permit for special events. There was a discussion about whether the Main Tract or the Randwick Tract would be most suitable to host a trial event. The Committee felt it would be important to develop a template for collecting data and feedback from pilot projects. A pilot project would involve a public communications piece which will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing a recreational off road motorcycle vehicle trail in the Randwick Tract. Al Buck provided the Committee with suggestions for a potential parking area. Staff were directed to consult with Public Works regarding the feasibility of the proposed location. Alternative locations for a parking area at the Randwick Track will also be explored. Discussion on this item will continue at the next meeting.
- Discussion about the arrangement with Mansfield Outdoor Centre for the use of the portion of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing was postponed until the next meeting.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
 55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room

Respectfully Submitted,

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Warden Laura Ryan, Chair
Forest Operation Review Committee.