



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee of the City of Kenora

Monday, April 10, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Operations Building Board Room

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**With** Diane Pelletier, Judy Underwood, Northwestern Health Unit, Councillor Sharon Smith, Erik Skiby, Logan Wright, Ren Amell, Barry Corbett

**Staff** Melissa Shaw, Planning Assistant, Josh Nelson, Tourism Development Officer, Kelly Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

**Guests** James Williams, MNRF, Devon McCloskey, City Planner

**Regrets** Steve Mastromatteo, Dave Schwartz, Heather Gushulak

### 1. Call to Order

Diane called meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

Guests James Williams from the MNRF and Devon McCloskey, City Planner were welcomed and introduced, along with Dwayne German, the City's new Parks Technician.

### 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

There were none declared.

### 4. Presentation - James Williams, MNRF - Management Plan for Mink Bay

James Williams provided background on his work with the MNRF and his involvement with restoration and rehab projects. He was employed with MNRF in Thunder Bay as a Partnership Specialist and worked in habitat restoration and revitalization, and finding money to do such projects. He relocated to Kenora and is in a similar role.

In speaking with people in the community Mink Bay was identified as a potential location for this type of project (restoration and revitalization). James informed the group this project would not be the only opportunity for

this type of work, the options are endless. With funding from OMNRF Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Fund the available monies are up to \$20,000. James did note that the organizations do like to see partnership and in kind applications. James also spoke on the DFO Recreation Fisheries Conservations Partnerships Program which offers grants of up to \$50,000 however the applicant's organization must be incorporated.

A slideshow presentation was given and included pictures of the Mink Bay area. James spoke on improvements to help with movement of water for opportunity for fish to spawn, removal of sawdust to improve wetland and give opportunity for vegetation to grow. Councillor Smith provided a history on the sawdust piles and wetland area. Environmental and historical components were discussed. The logistics of moving of the sawdust were also discussed. It was commented there may be an argument for restoring what would have been there prior to the sawdust due to the environmental aspect. In the past, during the spring the sawdust piles have caught fire. It was asked if any environmental studies have been done such as methane emissions, soil samples, etc. It was also asked if it would make it more eligible for funding if there is an environmental aspect.

Councillor Smith spoke about an occurrence at the wetland by Keewatin Arena where a resident trapped Otters that were leaving a mess on a private dock. The MNR and City were unable to do anything as animals are "posing a problem". Councillor Smith shared that she received many inquiries from the public as to if this is allowed and how the animals could be protected. She would like to see by-law passed to protect animals in the protected wetland areas. It was commented that damage to the property has to occur to be considered menacing animal. An in town trap line petition was discussed as an idea and it was shared that Vernon Trails has a no hunting/trapping policy. The Parks Department will be putting a report together for Council.

James spoke on some of the limitations of the money such as trails, tree planting, erosion, storm water run off/management. He noted that trails are not the focus, but have been incorporated into other projects. It was asked if school yard naturalizations would qualify for this type of funding. It was commented there is a movement to make school yards more natural, and less institutional.

James concluded the presentation and offered his help with the funding applications. He informed the group the deadline for the applications is in the fall. The presentation ended at 5:05pm. James and Devon excused themselves from the meeting.

**Discussion:**

The group felt there is definite potential to apply for the funds James presented on. There was a discussion on Mink Bay and it was felt there may be more viable locations for such work. The North Shore of Rabbit Lake was identified as being in need of some restoration work to improve the road shoulders from falling into lake and could include fisheries enhancements such as structures for bass nesting and revegetating the shoreline. It was noted this area had been looked at before but did receive some negative feedback from the community so it had been put on hold and there has been no further discussion or developments since. High school students were involved with swimming the shoreline to identify areas where the bass are currently nesting. It was commented there will need to be community buy in for move forward with this type of project in the Rabbit Lake area.

**5. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes  
Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Judy Underwood and  
CARRIED**

That the Minutes of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee meeting held on February 1, 2017 be confirmed as written and circulated.

**6. Volunteer Hours**

| <b>Volunteer</b>                        | <b>Jan</b> | <b>Feb</b> | <b>Mar</b> | <b>Apr</b> | <b>May</b> | <b>Jun</b> | <b>Jul</b> | <b>Aug</b> | <b>Sept</b> | <b>Oct</b> | <b>Nov</b> | <b>Dec</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Barry</b>                            |            |            |            | 21.5       |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Councillor Smith</b>                 |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Dave</b>                             |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Diane</b>                            |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Erik</b>                             |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Heather</b>                          |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Judy</b>                             |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Logan</b>                            |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Ren</b>                              |            |            |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Steve</b>                            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Staff</b>                            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Dwayne</b>                           |            |            |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Heather</b>                          |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Josh</b>                             |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Kelly</b>                            |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Melissa</b>                          |            | 1.5        |            | 1.5        |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |
| <b>Friends of Trails/Bike Committee</b> |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |            |            |            |

## **7. Great Lake of the Woods Trail/TransCanada Trail Update**

An information piece titled Our Big Year is Here was circulated to the committee members. Melissa spoke on the piece and informed the group there is opportunity for up to \$1500 to host a Trans Canada Trail unveil celebration on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were requested to form a sub-committee to help select a location and plan the event. Diane offered to be on the sub-committee along with Judy. It was commented that the sub-committee should reach out to the local TCT contact as they may want to be involved with the planning of the event as well.

## **8. Canada Summer Games Update**

A grant of \$50,000 for Enabling Accessibility was received and will help with improvements at Garrow Park for the Canada Summer Games. The monies will be used for tiered seating, landscaping, water mats and other improvements to the park. It went out for tender and received lots of submissions of proposal. The successful applicant is a contractor from Thunder Bay. The completion date is set for no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a question if there was a capital ask for the project. Josh will follow up with Karen Brown, CAO to confirm. Garbage cans, recycling bins and dog dispensers for the Canada Summer Games events were discussed.

## **9. Work Plan Development – Volunteers**

Logan and Ren have volunteered to sit on the sub-committee to develop the 2017 Work Plan. Kelly will coordinate a date and time for the sub-committee meeting. Judy has forwarded her notes on all Trails documents and Kelly will circulate to Logan and Ren.

## **10. Communications/Announcements**

- Pickup After Your Dog

The Pickup After Your Dog communication piece put together by the Communications Clerk was circulated to the committee members. Councillor Smith shared her interest in having the piece made into signs which could be attached to trailhead signs or on dog bag dispensers. It was also suggested the piece be hung at the vet and be distributed at City Hall when you license your dog. Josh and Dwayne will work together to see if they can find some monies for the project. Mink Bay, Tunnel Island, Rabbit Lake were discussed as possible locations for the signs.

## **11. Roundtable Discussion**

Judy noted the Find a Trail feature on the ontariotrails.on.ca website has the Rat Portage Trail displayed as Muskrat Urban Trail. Josh will contact the Ontario Trails organization to have this corrected.

There was a discussion on the status of the Laurenson's Creek Trail and if this trail should be included on the trail guide. There is a granite bench along the trail which is not being utilized for its intended purpose. It was

commented that the police frequent the trail as it is a place known for mischievous activities. The intentions of the trail were to have a designated space for wetland bird watching. The group felt it would be best to leave the trail on the trail guide as we don't want to ignore it and hope to further develop the trail to its full potential, making it more user friendly.

Dwayne asked the group for any input/feedback and will help with the resources available. Hide-a-bear garbage dispensers and costs were discussed. Norman Park was identified as an area in need of garbage bins.

## **12. Next Meeting Date**

Tentatively - Monday, May 1, 2017 at 4:00pm

Josh sent his regrets as he is unavailable to attend on this date.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.