

August 31, 2011



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council
cc: Sunset Trail Riders

Fr: Tara Rickaby, Planning Administrator

Re: Sunset Trail Riders Proposed OFSC Trail

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora considers approval at a future meeting based on;

- 1) The Sunset Trail Riders/OFSC pays all expenses with respect to the development of the snowmobile trails;
- 2) The outcome of the discussions between STR and the City of Kenora Trails Committee; and
- 3) The comments provided by Staff.

Comment/s:

Operations Manager:

Figure 1 – Round Lake area - proposed location is not safe due to curve and lack of streetlighting in area. If Council approves the crossing area, letter of authorization required from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for filling of shoreline in order to construct a landing area. Improvements will be required to guard rail systems, at expense of STR. Consultation required with Treaty 3.

Figure 2 – Gould Road area – The proposed crossing is too steep and will require too much fill at that location. Recommend crossing on the west side of Herbacz road where the grade change is not as significant and it eliminates one road crossing (Herbacz Road).

Figure 3 – No comment – private property

Figure 4 – Anicinabe Park and Fourth – Trail cutting through Anicinabe would serve to provide a base of a walking trail during the other three seasons of the year, however will need to be marked and inspected by the City before proceeding.

If the trail is to be located north of the core library, the neighbour to the north should be consulted.

Recommend alternate route, from Anicinabe Park and into deeper water, away from reefs and bad ice. This would remove the requirement to cut a trail

through the west part of the park and keep snowmobile traffic away from all residences.

Figure 5 – A&W fields, OPP office etc. area – Please note that this area may be the site of future development as it is located in a prime commercial area.

The staging area(s) should be confined to within the ball fields themselves. If improvements are required to the fence, to provide gates, those improvements will be the responsibility of STR.

Both areas will have to be signed indicating parking is at the risk of the owner only. Signs to be provided by STR and approved by the City of Kenora.

Parks Supervisor:

Figure 4: Already an issue with boardwalk, dock and campsite damage. Preference is to keep trail to the road and access by boat launch in order to keep sleds away from lawn area and old and new campsites. The private contractor at the park holds the same view.

This is the preferred solution rather than cutting a new trail through the park. If there is to be a trail cut through the park, the public should be consulted.

Figure 5: Winter use of the A & W ball fields is appropriate at this time. Signage will be required to indicate that the snowmobiles are parked at the risk of the owners.

Planning Administrator:

Figure 4: If a trail is to be cut through Anicinabe Park, there should be an opportunity to consult with the public.

Background:

In January of 2007, Council of the City of Kenora adopted the following resolution:

Motion #21 – As Amended

21. Moved by D. McCann, Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried:-

Whereas the Council of the City of Kenora fully supports the sport of snowmobiling, recognizing that it must be conducted in a manner that is respectful of the rights of property owners and all residents of the community; and

Whereas the City of Kenora has endeavoured to work with the Sunset Trail Riders, and all affected stakeholders with an interest in snowmobiling, to make snowmobile trails within the City safer for both riders and pedestrians; and

Whereas the City of Kenora continues to work with the Sunset Trail Riders on ways to reduce the impacts of noise and emissions on affected property owners and residents of the community;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the City of Kenora will continue to work with the Sunset Trail Riders and the citizens of Kenora on improving the quality of snowmobiling in the community by (i) implementing an alternative to the Nineteenth Ave North section of the trail, (ii) monitoring the effectiveness, in terms of health and safety, to the modifications made to the Highway 17 east section of the trail and (iii) seeking additional alternatives for the relocation

of the section of the trail under the Keewatin Channel Bridge.

Since that time, the City has spearheaded a campaign to change the snowmobile registration system to include a trail permit surcharge so that each snowmobiler invests in OFSC trails in Ontario.

Although there is an area, north of Rabbit Lake, through the City to the northern boundary on Black Sturgeon Lake which is designated as an OFSC trail, there is a need for a "cross City corridor".

Some members of Council, Staff and the Sunset Trail Riders have been working to develop several proposals for a safe trail system through Kenora and have

The STR is meeting with the Trails Committee on September 13th in order to discuss their proposal.

Budget: N/A –

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Notice by agenda of Property and Planning Committee and Council, Kenora Trails Committee Sunset Trail Riders and any notices required per outside Provincial and/or Federal agencies.