

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Tuesday, April 17, 2018				Report Date	Friday, April 12, 2018			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE - The Algonquin Trail									
Report #17/04/18 - 1101									

Subject: The Algonquin Trail**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive the attached as information.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1. Algonquin Trail – the Property and Development Committee has received its legal opinion which went before the County of Renfrew the last week of March. The County has determined that it will proceed with the trail but the legal opinion will not be made public.
2. Council needs to begin consultation with the County of Renfrew. They will ultimately own this trail. No matter what local clubs come up with, ultimately the County is/will be the owner. The municipality has control over the lands through its zoning by-law which may be changed as per Council's wishes.
 - a. In order to commence a zoning by-law change, a legislated process is required. A property owner who disagrees with a decision of Council may appeal to the new Local Planning Appeal Tribunal for a review of the decision making process. The new LPAT will not normally overturn a decision of Council unless it can be proved that they did not follow their own processes, giving deference to the mature government position of local municipalities.
 - b. Council may make amendments to that Zoning by-law following legislated processes.
 - c. Should anyone disagree with the decision of Council, so long as the decision was made according to prudent planning practices, it is unlikely that the tribunal will overturn a decision.
3. As to legal opinions, the County of Renfrew has obtained an opinion contrary to ours. This municipality has paid for a legal opinion in respect to its Zoning By-Law which it is required to uphold under the Planning Act. We are awaiting additional advice on this issue to ensure that staff and Council are following their legislative duties.
4. After having said that, the latest requests for consultation from the County and the MLSC have been met with a negative response. The county hasn't responded at all. The District OFSC has determined that they will only meet with Head, Clara & Maria staff and Council after the County received its legal opinion and only if someone from here goes to Pembroke to meet.
5. Council/Staff have met with Grant Tysick, Chief of the Kinouchepirini Algonquin People (People of the Pike) a community of non-status Indians in the area. Chief Tysick expressed his

concern with the lack of consultation with his community throughout the development of the Algonquin Trail. He further expressed concerns with the OFSC and the insistence that members of his community require permits.

- a. His group has requested that they be provided with no fee permits to facilitate the matter as has been determined through legislation. It seems that they have recently been advised that the OFSC may be working on this issue. Good news.
 - b. We have consulted with Lanark, they admitted to not consulting with Algonquins and admitted that they may have to back up two steps. We expressed that we didn't wish to balk at purchase and cause problems but we want harassment of our community to stop.
 - c. The County of Renfrew or lower tier municipalities have not consulted with us; you are the first.
 - d. We have no known challenges in Head, Clara & Maria.
 - e. I've travelled through here a lot, to Mattawa, come in to the store for fuel, then off to Mattawa. (Was asked if coming in off the main trail was an issue?)
 - f. No, never an issue. People do it all the time.
6. Continued concerns from the public, Council and staff:
- a. Costs of infrastructure replacement within Head, Clara & Maria due to geography with dangerous slopes, bridges and culverts and the opening of the trail for use before safety mechanisms have been installed.
 - b. Accessibility issues for trails and need for accessible materials for walking trails. Costs. According to the current accessibility legislation, all new trails designed as multi-use, allowing hiking or walking are to be created to certain specifics to ensure the safety of users.
 - i. The County will need to ensure that these requirements are being met in areas where people will walk/hike, prevalently through populated areas.
 - ii. How will the required trail base be affected by motorized vehicles and still meet accessibility requirements?
 - c. Policing. Proximity to policing. Distance and time to respond to complaints. Costs of increased calls for policing due to trail issues.
 - d. Fire. Increased costs for fire management due to increased use within the community.
 - e. Need for increased signage, gates, bollards, chicanes through Stonecliffe, and near other populated areas to alleviate concerns with noise, speed etc.
 - f. Need for re-route through specific areas. Costs, responsibilities?
7. A very productive meeting was had with members of the Renfrew County ATV Club and the President and Vice-President of the Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs. We discussed the and agreed on the following:
- a. Potential use of the trail through the community of Stonecliffe – using bollards and chicanes to slow vehicles down in necessary sections.
 - b. Working together – having a municipal representative on the local ATV club to work out challenges before they become problems.
 - c. Forming a municipal club as they have in Mattawa with permit sales shared with the municipality. (I have contacted the Mattawa club to have a member come to address council to discuss their association. They will discuss at their meeting later in April and let us know.)
 - d. Having the municipality host an ATV run with support from the clubs to raise money and awareness. They discussed raising funds to help out with auto extrication equipment and services.
 - e. Based on rumours they've heard, they were quite surprised by the reception they were receiving once we told them that we weren't against ATVing or snowmobiling and were interested in working with them.

- f. With clubs in local areas, locals are not required to purchase a permit for trail use however it is encouraged, as it is a form of voluntarism.
 - g. The benefits of permit ownership is the ability to use trails in neighbouring communities/other areas.
 - h. We discussed the unique scenery we have along the trail with the proximity to the river west of Stonecliffe and again west of Deux Rivières and the unlimited potential for marketing.
8. Stakeholder meetings have been occurring. Comments are outlined below and are not being attributed to any one person or group of persons. A more complete report will be presented to Council and the public prior to a follow up public meeting once all stakeholder meetings have completed. The short version to date....
- a. Remember the municipalities' slogan – "A Natural Playground"
 - b. If people do not live along the trail, I don't think they should have a say in how it is used.
 - c. This is an issue with a lot of layers.
 - d. People need to have more empathy for others' situations.
 - e. You mean we're not going to have a whole section where our (ATV) trails won't link?
 - f. We want to work together.
 - g. You don't need a rail trail up here to walk on; use a road. They say people will come from the cities; maybe once.
 - h. Anyone who wants to ski on a snowmobile trail is an idiot.
 - i. I think the municipality should start a class action law suit against the County.
 - j. I think the people who are against the snowmobiles should just go away.
 - k. Change is coming whether you want it or not; you won't stop it.
 - l. Don't make your decisions based on the opinions of a few people; you have to remember you are representing the entire municipality.
 - m. This is an excellent opportunity for growth for the community.
 - n. We haven't heard anything from you that you are willing to accept as a compromise, or to begin to compromise from.
 - o. Increased business would need to be planned carefully.
 - p. We should open welcome centres on either end of the municipality and have people man them to share what we have in our community.
 - q. Business development will be minimal.
 - r. So all campgrounds are taxed residential, not commercial?
 - s. Mixed use scares me.
 - t. Trail or re-route, the liability and cost to the municipality is the same.
 - u. I don't live along the trail but if I did, I wouldn't want motorized use in my backyard.
 - v. I guess it's just going to happen.
 - w. We can't afford to fight the County.
 - x. Can the county provide us with seeds so we can plant wildflowers along the trail to attract more bees – improve our ecological footprint?
9. Discussion of business opportunities for a municipal corporation.
- a. Bed and breakfasts.
 - b. Yurts.
 - c. Bike rentals
 - d. Campground
 - e. Café
 - f. Boat rentals
 - g. Transportation to Algonquin Park
10. Nearly every person we spoke with to date had a concern about speed, policing and liability.
- a. We are concerned about speed.
 - b. Who will pay for policing?
 - c. What about extra costs for fire?
 - d. Who will pick up the litter?

- e. Who pays for policing on the trail?
- f. It's going to cost a lot to get this trail up here in shape for walking.

Options/Discussion:

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith

Miscellaneous Comments and Concerns

1. On March 28, 2018 we received a complaint from Elizabeth Ives Ruyter regarding the mail out for the Algonquin Trail. She was upset that her mailout was sent later than those sent to local residents as she is a non-resident. (original mailed approx. Feb. 23/18 – non-residents Mar. 28/18) Although they were mailed out later, notice was posted on social media sites and via email when the resident mailing occurred.

After making her complaints, she informed us that she did not wish to book any of the remaining 18 consultation time slots. She had missed the opportunity to attend 6 sessions but wanted to ensure that Council was made aware of her concern that she thought it was unfair that all notices weren't mailed out at the same time.

2. Comments from someone who attended the Official Plan meeting in Eganville submitted this via email...for your information...this is how others see what is happening here. That meeting will be posted on the County Youtube channel if you wish to view it.
 - a. "A very interesting meeting last evening in Pembroke.....County land use renewal plan presentation at the Germania Club.....HCM came up as much as the trail did in various discussions. I was left with the feeling that a lot has gone on in HCM more than I knew. One speaker said it was inhumane what has happened there and down in Almonte ...that we are supposed to all be on the same team as the County are our elected reps for OUR wishes not vehicles of planners in TO. Gallant was in attendance but said nothing.....Mr Burke, I think from your area, was brought to tears by the County presentation in his rebuttal."
 - b. "Also I have traveled just returned from down east through Quebec's eastern townships, Northern and central Maine and central and southern New Brunswick and examined various trails and their usage in each of these jurisdictions.....wherever there is a trail in all three, there are literally hundreds of tracks all over the properties abutting the trails.....especially in NB, they go every where off the flagged trails.....into yards, through parking lots with gravel surfaces, all over the medians and shoulders of 4 lane highways.....through bush lots and tree plantations and through Christmas tree plantations.....these recognized trails just give the motorized crews access to every where it seems there!"