

Type of Decision							
Meeting Date	Tuesday, September 25, 2018			Report Date	Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018		
Council Decision Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority	x	High	Low
Complies with Current Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Creates New Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aligns with Strategic Plan	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Priority in Asset Management Plan	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Follows Procedure By-law	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Follows Procurement By-Law	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aligns with Zoning By-Law	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Aligns with previous Council precedent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
As per Provincial Legislation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Provincial Act or Regulation			
Direction		Information Only	x	Type of Meeting	X	Open	Closed
<b>REPORT TITLE - Algonquin Trail Update</b>							
Report #11/09/2018 - 1101							

**Subject: Information - Update on Algonquin Trail****RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive the following as information.

**BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

1. The Trail is being readied for opening in Lanark County but not without challenges.
  - a. Residents there are still against the use in their back yards and are moving towards a class action law suit.
  - b. One Mississippi Mills Councillor reports significant miss-use and trespass already on the as yet unopened trail.
2. The Algonquin Trail is being rolled out in stages within Renfrew County.
3. People are using the trail as expected – some with concern for others, some not.
4. There is currently one barrier/blockage in Renfrew County where a property owner will not let users pass.
5. The second such blockage has been removed by the County of Renfrew while the property owner was on vacation and the situation referred to legal counsel by the property owner.
6. There is a group of residents in Whitewater and Laurentian Valley who are actively opposing the trail in their communities and are seeking assistance through various forms including their local council members and the past Ombudsman, Mr. Marin. They are certain that the County is taking land that does not belong to them and are making decisions without following proper

environmental and planning decisions. They are making their concerns public prior to this election.

7. The Official Plan which was passed by County council in the spring has not yet been approved by the province. It is not yet an official document. Property owners are contesting the increased limits on property use for lands that abut the CP rail corridor.
8. Funding for the trail improvements under the Cycling program has been cancelled. Despite this, the Ministry of Transportation wishes to get cyclists off the highway. There are hopes that funding will be forthcoming for cycling trails. There are doubts that this funding will reach our area due to demand in more densely populated areas.
9. The current costs of smoothing, brushing and applying stone dust to sections of the trail in the relatively level eastern sections of Renfrew County have run approximately \$30,500 per kilometer.
10. Head, Clara & Maria has not officially heard anything from the County of Renfrew about the use of the trail in our community.
11. I have reached out and asked for an update from the County. "I am preparing a report to Council as an update to the Trail in HCM. Can you please provide me with any information you have concerning the anticipated roll out here? When will any significant work begin? I have people saying that the trail will open to ATVs in the spring of 2019? Can you comment?"
12. I have received the following:
  - a. "Nothing anticipated at the moment. We've been tasked with rolling out areas that received OMCC funding, and expanding out from the larger centres. As you may be aware, OMCC funding was cancelled with the elimination of the Cap & Trade program in Ontario. We are seeking alternative funding to boost the \$140K annual budget.
  - b. All of that said, with relative ease, we could open up larger sections for use (by all – not just ATVs) with some brushing and grading work. We need to review partner opportunities with any/all user groups to determine how to get this work done. The other reality is that there are a number of structures (bridges) that will need to be attended to before the trail is deemed safe to be open.
  - c. If the community of HC&M wishes us to review the area in earnest for work in 2019, we'd love to get a letter (of support) asking for consideration. As you know, our budget is limited and we're trying to maximize areas where we know we will have users."
13. In Head, Clara & Maria, staff met with representatives of the Missing Link Snowmobile Club in July and discussed a way to proceed with partial use of the trail through Stonecliffe and then reverting back to the "legacy" trail to access Yates General Store.
  - a. Land use memoranda of understanding will be signed to indemnify the municipality and mitigate costs should accident or injury occur on municipal property. To simplify, Marlene is in discussion to see if we can sign one document which will cover all municipal lands crossed by the trails.
  - b. Snow plow turn arounds and road crossings were discussed to ensure that trails may be used but snow stays off of municipal roads respecting the reality of municipal liability on roads.
  - c. We have been assured that there are MLSC volunteers who will work in our area to patrol the trails and improve security.

- d. Wilfred/Terry and Brent reviewed the proposed trail – feet on the ground to ensure that there was no misinterpretation or misunderstanding of location moving forward.
  - e. Doug Antler discussed issues along the Brent Road where access in the ditch and newly cut shoulders along Municipal property by the closed Deux Rivieres disposal site was the preferred route. Staff approved this move ensuring that MOE requirements were not being hampered in this area. Although the site has been closed for some years, we are still responsible for maintaining and monitoring it as a Closed Disposal Site.
14. In consultation with the OPP, they reported the following based on efforts to monitor unauthorized trail use over the long weekend while in this area.
- a. On 31 August at 1920hrs, PC Holt attended Stonecliffe and spent approximately a ½ hour on Yates Road. No ATVs were observed.
  - b. On 01 September at 2030hrs, Sgt. Gerundin attended and spent approximately a ½ hour on Yates Road. No ATVs were observed.
  - c. On 02 September, PC Holt was on his way to Stonecliffe when he got diverted to a situation in Chalk River which resulted his not being able to continue to Stonecliffe. No patrols were conducted.

**Financial Considerations – Budget Impact: n/a**

**Others Consulted:**

County of Renfrew – Craig Kelley, Missing Link Snowmobile Club – Brent Allan, Marlene Gibson and Doug Antler, MNRF – Mary Lyons, Dean Duchrow, OPP.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,  
Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*