



NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: June 1, 2023

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

MEETING: GANARASKA FOREST
RECREATIONAL USERS
COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: Mark Gardiner, Matthew Robbins,
Jim Pearson, Jennifer Jackman,
Garry Niece, Randy Cunningham,
Lisa Thompson, Amber Panchyshyn,
Pam Julian, Carolyn Richards, Peter
Wood, Steve Brownell, Maureen
McDonald, Marven Whidden, Lance
Nachoff

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

Land Acknowledgement

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewa's of the Anishinabek, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contribution to the area. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
3. Minutes of Last Meeting – April 6, 2023 - **attached**

4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Delegations:
None
6. Presentation:
None
7. Business Arising from Minutes:
None
8. Correspondence:
None
9. New Business:
 - a) Volunteer Program – **Staff report attached**
 - b) Environmental Concerns – **Staff report attached**
 - c) Central Forest Trail System – **Staff report attached**
10. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

April 6, 2023

RUC 1/23

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the Ganaraska Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:05 pm, welcomed those present, and introduced the new representative Matthew Robbins from Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Jim Pearson from Ontario Trail Riders Association, Lisa Thompson for Ontario Federation of Trail Riders, Carolyn Richards from Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs, Steve Brownell for Municipality of Port Hope, Maureen McDonald for Township of Cavan Monaghan, Lance Nachoff GRCA Board of Directors.

MEMBER PRESENT: Mark Gardiner, Chair
Matthew Robbins, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Jennifer Jackman, Ontario Nature
Randy Cunningham, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
Lisa Thompson, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
Amber Panchyshyn, Orienteering Ontario
Carolyn Richards, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs
Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope
Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan
Marven Whidden, Municipality of Clarington
Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Director

ALSO PRESENT: Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician
Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:** Garry Niece, Hike Ontario
Pam Julian, Ontario Cycling
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4X4 Clubs

ALSO ABSENT: Cross Country Ski Ontario (position unfilled)
City of Kawartha Lakes (position unfilled)

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RUC 1/23

MOVED BY: Marven Whidden

SECONDED BY: Jennifer Jackman

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 2/23

MOVED BY: Maureen McDonald

SECONDED BY: Amber Panchyshyn

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED.

5. Delegations

None

6. Presentations

None

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

8. Correspondence

None

9. New Business

a) Recreational Users Committee Terms of Reference

The Recreational Users Committee Terms of Reference was provided for information. Ed Van Osch the GRCA Recreation Technician identified that the GRCA reviews the RUC Terms of Reference annually to ensure they meet the administrative needs of the RUC.

RUC 3/23

MOVED BY: Carolyn Richards

SECONDED BY: Marven Whidden

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Recreational Users Committee Terms of Reference for information.

CARRIED.

c) Ganaraska Forest Recreational Trails Strategy Terms of Reference

The Ganaraska Forest Recreational Trails Strategy Terms of Reference was provided for information. Carolyn Richards of OFATV identified that GRCA had not included reference to Ontario Regulation 316/03 in the Terms of Reference. Steve Brownell of Municipality of Port Hope questioned why GRCA needed to complete a Trails Strategy when a Forest Management Plan was completed in 2016. Pam Lancaster the GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator identified that the Forest Management Plan focuses on the management of the forests and ecosystem that exists and informed the RUC that the Trails Strategy is focused on the preservation and long term plan for recreational activities in the Ganaraska Forest.

RUC 4/23**MOVED BY:** Carolyn Richards**SECONDED BY:** Marven Whidden

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Trails Strategy Terms of Reference for information.

CARRIED.

d) Environmental Concerns

RUC members were encouraged to gather environmental concerns from their respective user group to share with the GRCA Recreation Technician prior to the next RUC meeting. Jim Person of OTRA expressed a concern of trail channelling along some trails caused by excessive erosion. This channelling can result in trapping equestrians along a trail and not provide a safe route to avoid oncoming vehicular traffic. Ed Van Osch, GRCA Recreation Technician requested that Jim provide GRCA with mapping identifying exact locations where this erosion is a safety concern.

RUC 5/23**MOVED BY:** Lisa Thompson**SECONDED BY:** Jim Pearson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee will gather and share environmental concerns with GRCA Recreation Technician.

CARRIED.

e) Ganaraska Forest Reopening

Ed Van Osch, GRCA Recreation Technician reviewed the tasks involved in the upcoming May 1, 2023 Ganaraska Forest reopening. Ed provided clarification to questions from Lisa Thompson from OFTR and Steve Brownell from Municipality of Port Hope regarding Forest reopening user requirements, parking, Forest Day Pass/ Membership sales, signage and special events.

RUC 6/23**MOVED BY:** Marven Whidden**SECONDED BY:** Carolyn Richards

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Ganaraska Forest Reopening staff report for information.

CARRIED.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

RUC 7/23

MOVED BY: Randy Cunningham

SECONDED BY: Marven Whidden

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm.



Chair

Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – June 1, 2023

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Volunteer Program Update

Stage One of the Trail Maintenance Volunteer Program has commenced. Volunteers are pruning and removing certain trail blockages on predetermined single-track trails for clearance within the West Forest. This work is complementing Staff maintenance efforts. The intent of Stage One is to provide a single-track trail network with a minimum clearance standard to facilitate safe passage.

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) is currently developing Stage Two of the Volunteer Program. Stage Two will focus on the of clearing pre-existing single track in the Central Forest. This effort is setting groundwork to develop a series of looping trails that will connect Ganaraska Forest Centre and Horse Trailer Parking Lot to single track loops. Staff will be hosting Stage Two training and orienteering in the coming weeks.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Recreational Users Committee receive the Volunteer Program Update Staff Report for information.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – June 1, 2023

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Environmental Concerns

During the April 6, 2023 RUC meeting, Staff asked RUC representatives to collect environmental concern feedback from their perspective user groups. During the June 1, 2023 meeting RUC members are encouraged to share these concerns with the RUC and GRCA.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Recreational Users Committee receive the Environmental Concerns Staff Report for information.

FURTHER THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee discuss known and potential environmental concerns with trail use in the Ganaraska Forest.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – June 1, 2023

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Central Forest Trail System

Historically, Central Forest single track, dual track and Forest roads have overlapped. This causes challenges during winter operations, specifically with regards to cross country ski trails. To facilitate specific trail needs, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) has been working towards developing a process to separate trail types. Additionally, Staff are assessing the safety and functionality of the trail system.

A new snowshoe trailhead and A-Loop bypass is currently being developed. This will allow people to bypass Tree Top Trekking games area, a dangerous hill at the trailhead and separate the ski trail from snowshoe trail. Staff have marked the trail and removed blockages. An excavating contractor will be clearing and creating the trail surface. Staff expect this work to be completed by mid-summer. The snowshoe trails can be used year-round.

Additionally, Staff are working towards redeveloping the single-track network in the Central Forest. Currently single track is sporadic and infringes on the cross country ski trail in several locations. This causes challenges for maintenance and to trail users. As the plan develops the several sections of single-track will be relocated away from the ski trails and some older sections of single-track will be realigned to create a series of continuous loops that will connect with the Ganaraska Forest Centre. Staff expect this project to be a multi-year project that will require significant investment, partnership, and community involvement.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Recreational Users Committee receive the Central Forest Trail System Staff Report for information.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician