

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: Marvin 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: Marvin 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 Cunnigham

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