

**MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST
RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE**

September 7, 2023

RUC 3/23

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the Ganaraska Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:04 pm and welcomed those present.

MEMBER PRESENT: Mark Gardiner, Chair
Matthew Robbins, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Jennifer Jackman, Ontario Nature
Garry Niece, Hike Ontario
Lisa Thompson, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
Amber Panchyshyn, Orienteering Ontario
Carolyn Richards, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs
Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope
Marven Whidden, Municipality of Clarington

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

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Randy Cunningham, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Director

ALSO ABSENT: Pam Julian, Ontario Cycling
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4X4 Clubs
Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan
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 14/23

MOVED BY: Marven Whidden

SECONDED BY: Gary Niece

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 15/23

MOVED BY: Jennifer Jackman

SECONDED BY: Marven Whidden

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) Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski Trail Update

Ed Van Osch, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Forest Recreation Technician provided an update on trail reroute construction in the Central Forest and confirmed that GRCA anticipate these reroutes to be opened to the public and the Ganaraska Forest Trail digital map will be updated to represent these changes prior to the winter operating season.

RUC 16/23

MOVED BY: Lisa Thompson

SECONDED BY: Amber Panchyshyn

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski Trail Update Staff Report for information.

CARRIED.

b) Volunteer Program Update

Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician explained how the volunteer program functions and provided an updated on the success of the volunteer efforts. Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator, informed the RUC that volunteers have been given access to GRCA Quick Capture App which allows them to report trail blockages and locations directly to GRCA staff. She further requested that the general public report trail blockage locations via volunteer@grca.on.ca.

RUC 17/23**MOVED BY:**

Gary Niece

SECONDED BY:

Jennifer Jackman

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Volunteer Program Update for information.

CARRIED.**c) Environmental Concerns**

Jennifer Jackman, Ontario Nature RUC representative inquired as to the possibility of GRCA collecting data representative of wildlife species. Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator stated that GRCA currently has data on localized habitat and is continuing to collect ecosystem data. Additionally, staff plan to incorporate citizen science into Ganaraska Forest monitoring and data collection in the future.

Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association (OTRA) RUC representative announced that OTRA recently contributed a \$3510.00 sign and trail improvement donation to the GRCA. A discussion was held regarding specific areas with deficient signage and where specific signage would help with Forest User navigation. Pam Lancaster GRCA, Conservation Lands Coordinator indicated that GRCA signage protocol is under development and will be incorporated into a future Strategy which is slated for public consultation in 2024.

Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope RUC representative inquired about GRCA forest fire response planning and suggested that details of this plan be distributed to the community at large. Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator informed the RUC that responses to fire within the Ganaraska Forest would be carried out by local municipal fire departments. To support this response, GRCA has representation on the Ganaraska Forest Fire Committee, in which all local municipalities Emergency Management Services (EMS) representatives meet with GRCA Staff biannually to discuss emergency response and share information. Additionally, during emergency response situations, GRCA Staff occasionally are able to assist EMS as property guides/experts and help facilitate access to the Ganaraska Forest.

RUC 18/23**MOVED BY:**

Marven Whidden

SECONDED BY:

Carolyn Richards

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

FURTHERMORE GRCA is requesting that Recreational Users Committee continue to gather and share Users environmental concerns with GRCA Recreation Technician.

CARRIED.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

RUC 19/23

MOVED BY: Marven Whidden

SECONDED BY: Jennifer Jackman

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Chair



Forest Recreation Technician