

MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

November 2, 2023

RUC 4/23

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the Ganaraska Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:01pm and welcomed those present.

MEMBER PRESENT: Mark Gardiner, Chair
Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Jennifer Jackman, Ontario Nature
Garry Niece, Hike Ontario
Randy Cunningham, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club
Lisa Thompson, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
Alex Schmidt, Ontario Cycling Association
Carolyn Richards, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4x4 Clubs
Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope
Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan

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

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Matthew Robbins, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Amber Panchyshyn, Orienteering Ontario
Marven Whidden, Municipality of Clarington

ALSO ABSENT: Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Directors
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 20/23

MOVED BY: Jennifer Jackman

SECONDED BY: Lisa Thompson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 21/23

MOVED BY:

Maureen McDonald

SECONDED BY:

Randy Cunningham

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) Digital Ganaraska Forest Trail Map

Maureen McDonald, inquired as to the possibility of incorporating Ganaraska Forest Trail Digital Map and web application notification in local newspapers. Pam Lancaster, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Conservation Lands Coordinator, stated that GRCA uses various media platforms including E-news, social media and provides media releases for news outlets.

Alex Schmidt, inquired about the possibility of incorporating second party mapping data into the Ganaraska Forest Trail Digital Map. Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician, indicated that GRCA is developing a Recreational Trail Strategy which includes a modeling approach to identify ideal locations for trail placement. The information collected during modeling studies will be cross referenced with pre-existing trail networks and data supplied by past and present partners.

Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator, with approval from the Chair, invited all Recreation User Committee members to share their thoughts about the Ganaraska Forest trail system, and what they like/dislike about trail systems related to their use type.

Jim Pearson mentioned that occasionally motorized vehicles utilize non-motorized trails and some corners or hills create visual barriers where horseback riders are forced to leave the trail to avoid possible conflict. Jim stated that signage should clearly identify non-motorized trails adjacent to motorized trails.

Alex Schmidt stated that good signage at intersections creates positive user feeling, and that phone apps are great in combination with signage. Additionally, Alex Schmidt stated the mountain bike community desires attributes that create the ideal post ride culture.

Garry Niece requested clarification as to the need to periodically re-download Ganaraska Forest Mapping. Pam Lancaster confirmed that although the mapping is available online that cell signal is not consistent in all areas of the Forest and GRCA suggests downloading the mapping app to your phone to allow for offline use and that it is imperative to download the map updates each time a user visits the Ganaraska Forest to ensure they have the most recent authorized map.

RUC 22/23

MOVED BY:

Maureen McDonald

SECONDED BY:

Jim Pearson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Digital Ganaraska Forest Trail Map Update Staff Report for information.

FURTHERMORE GRCA is requesting that RUC Representatives share the Ganaraska Forest Trail Map information presented during this meeting with their respective organizations and user groups.

CARRIED.

b) Ganaraska Forest Signage Update

Jim Pearson inquired as to the possibility of incorporating volunteers into the signage plan. Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician stated that the signage updates are being completed by Staff and GRCA is considering incorporating volunteer opportunities for signage monitoring and maintenance in the future.

Carolyn Richards asked if GRCA would be promoting What 3 Words App on updated signage. Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator stated that trailhead signage will incorporate What 3 Words App information. Additionally, GRCA is consulting with Emergency Services to understand the how What 3 Words App is used by Emergency Services and how GRCA can incorporate the Application.

RUC 23/23

MOVED BY:

Peter Wood

SECONDED BY:

Lisa Thompson

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

FURTHERMORE GRCA is requesting that RUC Representatives share the Ganaraska Forest Signage Update information presented during this meeting with their respective organizations and user groups.

CARRIED.

c) Environmental Concerns

Jennifer Jackman inquired as to GRCA plans to address invasive Dog Strangling Vine (DSV) in the Ganaraska Forest [in addition to addressing woody invasive species]. GRCA staff continually consider management of various invasive species, including dog strangling vine. Consideration will be given to presenting information about invasive species management at a future meeting.

RUC 24/23

MOVED BY: Carolyn Richards
SECONDED BY: Jennifer Jackman

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 7:52 pm.

RUC 25/23

MOVED BY: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Randy Cunningham

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Chair



Forest Recreation Technician