



NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: September 5, 2024

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Hybrid, In-Person / Zoom Meeting. In person meeting at GRCA Administration Office at 2216 County Road 28, Port Hope

AGENDA

MEETING:

**GANARASKA FOREST
RECREATIONAL USERS
COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS:

Bob Gallagher, Matthew Robbins,
Jim Pearson, Jennifer Jackman,
Garry Niece, Randy Cunningham,
Lisa Thompson, Amber Panchyshyn,
Alex Schmidt, Carolyn Richards,
Peter Wood, Steve Brownell,
Maureen McDonald, 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 – June 6, 2024 - **attached**
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Delegations:
None
6. Presentation:
 - a) Dog Strangling Vine Information – **Staff report attached**
7. Business Arising from Minutes:
None
8. Correspondence:
None
9. New Business:
 - a) Trailhead Signage Update – **Staff report attached**
 - b) Trail Maintenance Update – **Staff report attached**
 - c) Recreational User Group Discussion– **Staff report attached**
10. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

June 6, 2024

RUC 2/24

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:09 pm and welcomed those present.

MEMBER PRESENT: Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Directors, Chair
Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Jennifer Jackman, Ontario Nature
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
Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope
Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan
Matthew Robbins, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

ALSO PRESENT: Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:** Marven Whidden, Municipality of Clarington
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4x4 Clubs

ALSO ABSENT: Amber Panchyshyn, Orienteering Ontario
Garry Niece, Hike Ontario
Cross Country Ski Ontario (position unfilled)
City of Kawartha Lakes (position unfilled)

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Maureen McDonald noted a spelling mistake in the trail modelling staff report.

RUC 01/24

MOVED BY: Alex Schmidt
SECONDED BY: Marueen McDonald

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023 meeting, and receive the minutes of the April 4, 2024 meeting for information.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 02/24

MOVED BY:

Randy Cunningham

SECONDED BY:

Carolyn Richards

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) Announcement of Departure: Mark Gardiner, Chair of Recreational Users Committee

RUC 03/24

MOVED BY:

Jim Pearson

SECONDED BY:

Carolyn Richards

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Announcement of Departure: Mark Gardiner, Chair of Recreational Users Committee staff report for information.

CARRIED.

b) Ganaraska Forest Trail Modelling Public Consultation Report

Alex Schmidt asked for an update on timelines and if tasks are still on track to implement this initiative. Pam Lancaster notes that the project is on track. Jennifer Jackman inquired how a split agree/disagree response is considered. Pam Lancaster spoke to how public consultation was used to update project methods. Steve Brownell asked if there is data to support where “areas designated to be managed for old-growth conditions and/or features” are located. Pam Lancaster confirmed that through forest inventory work, the areas are mapped. Maureen McDonald spoke to the importance of the environment for youth education.

RUC 04/24**MOVED BY:**

Carolyn Richards

SECONDED BY:

Jim Pearson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Ganaraska Forest Trail Modeling Public Consultation Report, and staff report for information.

CARRIED.**c) Conservation Lands Strategy Update****RUC 05/24****MOVED BY:**

Carolyn Richards

SECONDED BY:

Maureen McDonald

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Conservation Lands Strategy Update staff report for information.

CARRIED.10. Other Business

Alex Schmidt introduced a topic of trail maintenance in relation to the re-opening of 4.5 km of single-track trail in the Central Forest. Alex questioned the trail standards used, and the topic of leaf blowing on trails. Discussion continued by many regarding the need to balance conservation of land and public use. Jim Pearson, Steven Brownell and Lisa Thompson spoke about the importance of multi-use trails and how the Ganaraska Forest is known for its shared uses. Steve Brownell asked if a customer service/satisfaction survey has ever been considered. Pam Lancaster noted that such surveys could be possible in the future depending on the need to ask such questions. The Chair offered for members to send their three biggest concerns about the Forest to him and Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

RUC 06/24**MOVED BY:**

Randy Cunningham

SECONDED BY:

Steve Brownell

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Chair

Conservation Lands Coordinator

STAFF REPORT – September 5, 2024

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee (RUC)

RE: Dog Strangling Vine Information

Gus Sauer, Gannaraska Region Conservation Authority Forester is presenting information on the threat and controls of the invasive Dog Strangling Vine in the Gannaraska Forest.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Gannaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Dog Strangling Vine Information presentation for information.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Van Osch', written over a horizontal line.

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 5, 2024

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Trailhead Signage Update

The Gananaska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) would like to thank the Greenbelt Foundation for their support and funding in the development of new trailhead signage in the Gananaska Forest.

The new trailhead signage is located at five parking lot locations and was completed in the summer of 2024. Each sign includes interpretive content about the GRCA and the Greenbelt, relevant emergency and regulatory information, as well as overview maps.

The mapping is designed to help orient Forest users to trails and Forest boundaries in their vicinity, while the Gananaska Forest Trails Map, available on the GRCA website and via the Field Maps app, provides users with all available trails, including single track trails. The app uses a mobile device's GPS while in the Forest, even without a cellular signal.

To view these new signs in person, please visit the Central Forest Trailhead at the Gananaska Forest Centre or Parking Lots P2, P5, P6 and P7 throughout the Gananaska Forest.



3-panel sign - Central Gananaska Forest Gananaska Forest Centre Trailhead Sign



2-panel sign - West Gananaska Forest P2 Trailhead Sign

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Gananaska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Trailhead Signage Update staff report for information.

Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 5, 2024

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Trail Maintenance Update

During the September 7, 2023, Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting, the Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski Trail Update Staff Report communicated that, the existing trail network within the Central Forest required specific maintenance to address operational and safety challenges. As the Gananaska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) moved into 2024, customer feedback and operational challenges revealed during previous seasons helped staff to identify several trail sections in need of immediate improvements.

GRCA historic operational practices focused on removing hazards and ensuring the trails are clear without barriers. In addition to these historical operational practices, staff are dedicated to improving the overall flow and design of the trail system.

Throughout 2024, GRCA has been actively implementing trail clearance pruning efforts along portions of the trail network. This work involves the use of heavy equipment (tractor, chipper and brushsaws), forestry and pruning best practices and dedicated staff hours. As trail clearance work progresses, Forest users will see vegetation, rocks, stumps and static hazards removed from the areas immediately adjacent the trail bed. This active maintenance is intended to address existing and potential future hazards, extend the life of the trail system and increase the desirability of the trails system to Gananaska Forest users.

In order for the GRCA to continue offering a multi-use trail network that the Forest users expect, staff anticipate this degree of trail maintenance will be required on a yearly basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Gananaska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Trail Maintenance Update staff report for information.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 5, 2024

To: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Recreational Users Group Discussion

The Gananaska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) is dedicated to offering a multi-use trail system within the Gananaska Forest. To achieve this, GRCA collects information regarding Forest user activity and industry standards. Periodically, GRCA offers customer feedback surveys. The data collected from these surveys is utilized to help make informed management decisions.

In addition to customer survey's, GRCA is looking to the Recreational Users Committee (RUC) to provide user group specific perspectives. GRCA is encouraging the RUC to connect with their respective group to gather information to share with fellow RUC members and GRCA representatives at the RUC meeting scheduled for September 5, 2024. Information obtained during this and future discussions could be utilized in future property management decisions in hopes to maximize the Gananaska Forest user experience.

During the RUC meeting, RUC representative will be given a chance to express the reasons why their respective user group values the Gananaska Forest trail system.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Gananaska Forest Recreational Users Committee receive the Recreational Users Group Discussion staff report for information; and,

FURTHER THAT the Gananaska Forest Recreational Users Committee continue to provide Forest Recreation Technician with User Group specific information, updates and concerns.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician