Minutes
Trail Advisory Committee
Monday, October 7, 2019
Township of Selwyn
Lower Board Room

Present: Bruce Bellchambers
David Walsh
Yvonne Spradbrow
Ian Deslauriers
Tony Davidson

Regrets: Councillor Gerry Herron

Guests: Casey Abrahamse & Pamela Abrahamse (left at 3:41 pm)
Roger Randall & Jeanne Randell (left at 3:41 pm)
Lorry Crockower & Ellen Crockower (left at 3:41 pm)

Staff: Mike Richardson, Recreation Manager
Tania Goncalves, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Yvonne Spradbrow called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM. All attendees provided a brief introduction of themselves.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
None

1. Deputations and/or Invited Persons

Casey Abrahamse spoke to the Committee regarding his concerns with the development of Phase 3 of the Fairbairn Trail (unopen road allowance). Mr. Abrahamse also submitted a petition from 14 households opposing Phase 3 of the proposed Fairbairn Trail specifically, Pinehill Road to 5th Line. Mr. Abrahamse expressed concerns specifically regarding the following:

- The Trails proximity to his property.
- The Trails impact on the Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) (Snelgrove Brook).
- Concerns that the proposed Trail does not comply with the relevant County of Peterborough Official Plan provision which does not allow development on PSW.
The Trails potential impact on species at risk, namely Black Tern and the Bobolink.
– The Trails potential disturbance on the Provincially Protected Winter Shelter (PPWS) for deer.
– The possibility of disturbing the Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).
– The Trails inability to meet accessible standards given the slope in the terrain.

Roger Randall addressed the Committee regarding his concerns with the development of Phase 3 of the Fairbairn Trail (unopen road allowance). Mr. Randall also expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Trail on the environment as well as the potential for trail erosion to occur creating an environmental concern. Mr. Randall also expressed concerns specifically regarding the following:
– The installation of a culvert in Phase 1 of the Fairbairn Trail noting that it appears to be elevated.
– The site lines for vehicles and pedestrian at the proposed Fairbairn Trail entrance at Pinehill Road.
– The investment of public funds for a trail that people may not use.
– The potential to reduce property values for homes adjacent to the Trail.
– The possibility of trespassing from trail users on to private property and the need for a barrier.
– General concerns with the possibility of loitering.
– General communication concerns regarding the Trail to affected residents.

Lorry Crockower addressed the Committee regarding his concerns with the proposed Fairbairn Trail entrance at Pinehill Road. Mr. Crockower expressed concerns specifically regarding the following:
– The speed at which vehicles travel along Pinehill Road.
– The potential for vehicle and pedestrian collisions from users leaving the proposed parking area on Pinehill Road.
– Parking availability.

Mike Richardson and Committee members addressed the various concerns identified by the deputations.

**General Comments:**
– An initial consultation with Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) regarding Phases 2 and 3 of the project determined an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) would be completed in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. The finding of the EIS will dictate the construction plan of the potential Phases 2 and 3 of the Fairbairn Trail.
- The Township will implement trail construction methodologies that avoid any adverse impact on the function of the wetland that traverses the proposed Fairbairn Trail.
- The Fairbairn unopened road allowance has continuously been endorsed as an optimal route for connectivity, natural setting on already owned Township land. A further endorsement by ORCA and GreenUp was received for the funding application due to suitability and appeal of the route for a future trail.
- The Township has planned the Fairbairn Trail with trying to create the least impact to the fewest residents possible. The incredible mix of established forests, rock wall and mature trees will provide a buffer that is denser than most Township trails that are adjacent to homeowners offer.

**Official Plan:**
- The County of Peterborough Official Plan does not permit development on PSW however, by definition; trails are not considered “development” as they do not require approval under the Planning Act.
- The Official Plan provides guidance related to permitted uses on lands designated as PSW’s including “that the predominant land use shall be educational, recreational and interpretive subject to their being no negative impacts on wetland features or the ecological function”.

**Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)**
- The PSW by the Fairbairn Trail is not a designated ANSI property. ORCA and the MNR were consulted to confirm this fact.

**Provincially Protected Winter Shelter (PPWS):**
- ORCA and the MNR were consulted and confirmed that a PPWS does not prohibit the development of a trail.

**Species at Risk:**
- The EIS will evaluate the unopened road allowance for species at risk.

**Accessibility:**
- The Township will following the guidelines for the Design of Public Spaces Standard of the Access ON document. Also, the Township’s Accessibility Committee is consulted during the planning phases of all recreational construction projects and were a supporting partner for a funding application submitted by the Township for the proposed Phase 2 and 3 of the Fairbairn Trail.

**Road Concerns/Parking:**
- The Township has not identified any risk along Pinehill Road beyond standard roadway and Highway Traffic Act regulations.
- The parking which is planned for Pinehill Road is to be set back at the north end. This will create a buffer for people embarking and disembarking from their vehicles.

**Property Values:**
- Various studies have identified that trail development near/adjacent to residential properties only helps to increase property value and attractiveness.
Communication:
- Mike advised that the Township attempted to contact Mr. & Mrs. Abrahamse regarding the trail numerous times by visiting their home but unfortunately were unsuccessful. The Fairbairn Trail was proposed as part of the Trails Master Plan which underwent a thorough public consultation process.

Nuisance:
- The Township would rely on its various By-laws to address issues with loitering, noise, partying etc.... Historically, the Township has not experienced the above mentioned issues on its trails however, if required, By-law officers and local policing would be engaged to address such concerns.
- The Township would have full support of By-law officers and local policing should any issues arise. The Township’s Animal Control By-law requires that animals are in the “Care and Control” of owners. This has proven effective in addressing all resident concerns regarding behaviour of the dogs and their owners.

A brief discussion was had with Committee members and guests. Chair Spradbrow thanked all deputations for attending the meeting and highlighting their concerns.

Guests left the meeting at (3:45 pm)

2. Minutes
Committee members received the minutes of March 11, 2019 and June 12, 2019 for information.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes
None

4. Question Period
None

5. Correspondence for Discussion and/or Decision
None

6. Reports/Updates

a) Projects – Fairbairn Trail
Committee members had a general discussion regarding the next steps of the Fairbairn Trail development. Mike advised that an EIS needs to be completed prior to any other work being done.
Ian requested that a letter be sent to the 14 properties noted in the petition provided by Mr. Abrahamse advising of the project details and the next steps.

**Action:** Staff to prepare a letter be sent to the 14 properties noted in the petition provided by Mr. Abrahamse.

b) Trail Town Launch:
Mike noted that Trail Town was launched on August 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2019. Lakefield was one of the initial 10 communities that make up Trail Town, which encourages the exploration of communities along the Trent-Severn Waterway in support of economic development. Mike also advised that the Township has applied to the Rural Economic Development (RED) grant program in support of the Trail Town initiative for Lakefield. The grant would support wayfinding signage, waste can program and public washroom upgrades etc.... Mike will keep the Committee informed on the application status.

**Action:** Staff to forward the Trail Town website to Committee members.

c) DRAFT 2020 Capital Budget:
Mike provided Committee members with copies of the Draft 2020 budget.

7. **Other, New and Unfinished Business**

**Ennismore Waterfront Park (Trail)** – Ian requested that the Ennismore Waterfront Trail be added as an item for discussion for the next Trail Committee Meeting in order to discuss the route and boardwalk repair.

**BEL Rotary Polar Plunge** – Mike advised Committee members of the event and the theme for 2020.

**Master Plan** – Ian requested that next steps for the Trail Master Plan be brought forward to the next Trails Committee meeting for discussion.

8. **Adjournment and Next Meeting**
The Committee’s next regular meeting will take place on December 9 at 2:30 pm.

The Trails Committee meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.