



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

7:30 pm

Callander Community Centre

1984 Swale Street, Callander

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark King, Bill Beckett, Susan Christian, Sharon Kitlar, Andre Boileau, Laurie Bachelder

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jill Faulkner, Arne Schmidt, Ken Turner, Walter Reich

Total attendance with guests was 18 people.

1. Call to Order

Mark King called the meeting to order

2. Chair's Report

Discovery Routes has come a long way over the past year. Our new office at the Information Centre in North Bay has served to legitimize Discovery Routes and put a professional face back on the organization. The operating costs are being covered through the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation for our first year. The office is also staffed five days a week with a FedNor intern and Program Manager. The issue of ongoing operational funding is critical to the survival of Discovery Routes. This issue has received considerable focus over the past few months. The Finance and Sustainable Committee has come up with a plan to tackle sustainable funding for the administration of the organization over the long term. The process has not been without its share of barriers causing the plan to be adapted, as avenues of funding have been discovered to be unavailable to Discovery Routes. Of course, creating the plan does not resolve the administrative challenges. In order to implement the plan, a great deal of effort will be put towards renewing past partnerships and building new ones. We need to educate our partners on the benefits of Discovery Routes and sell our services to the many agencies and organizations that are working to build the health, environment and economy of this region.

We are re-entering the community at an ideal time. There is a renewed momentum occurring within the trails community. Some of the exciting projects that are finally coming about include Callander's own Cranberry Marsh Trail. It is now complete and the municipality will be celebrating the official opening next Sunday, October 14, 2007.

Two leaders in the trails movement are putting their efforts into business planning. Both the Voyageur Multi-use Trails Network around Mattawa and the Sudbury-West Nipissing Rail Trail Corporation have hired independent consultants to identify business opportunities for their distinct trail systems.

Our own Discovery Routes – Trans Canada Trail project through Callander is moving along rapidly. The construction phase will be completed by the end of the year. Discovery Routes will mark the official opening of this important link next spring. We can look forward to the new momentum and increased

profile that this incredible project will bring to the organization. Working with the Municipality of Callander and the other regional stakeholders, Discovery Routes will lead the marketing efforts of this section of the Trans Canada Trail in conjunction with the region's network of trails. The potential to bring visitors to this region to experience the incredible outdoor facilities in a responsible manner is fantastic.

With the completion of this major project close at hand, Discovery Routes will be able to focus trail development efforts on other projects, like the Voyer Road Trail connecting East Ferris to the Trans Canada Trail and the 'missing link' in the Kate Pace Way.

We will also continue to support our local communities in health promotion. With the poor health of Canadians so prominent in the media, it is little wonder that trails are experiencing a renewed popularity. Attention is focused at the alarming rates of childhood obesity and of the inactive lifestyles of a generation that is growing up in front of a screen. Discovery Routes is committed to working with Municipalities and other interest groups in order to increase opportunities to encourage active, healthy lifestyles. As part of this commitment, we have hosted two workshops over the past year, one last spring and the second just this afternoon. Both workshops focused on providing training to volunteers that plan special events on the regions' trails. Special events provide excellent opportunity to highlight local trails and encourage physical activity within communities. Discovery Routes received financial support from the Ministry of Health Promotion through a Community in Action Fund grant and Take Heart in support of this initiative.

Another major project that will be receiving considerable attention is the development of a non-motorized Trail Guide and mapping project. The Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council is spearheading the project in a close partnership with Discovery Routes. We will ensure that the end product serves the tourism industry as well as local users of the trails.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Board who are sitting around this table tonight, as well as those that could not be here tonight. We have two long time Board members that are stepping down, and Mark King took time to recognize Andre Boileau's support of Discovery Routes over the years. Jill Faulker is also stepping down but was not present to be recognized.

3. Treasurer's Report

Bill Beckett spoke to the audience in place of Discovery Routes' treasurer, Ken Turner, regarding the finances of Discovery Routes. Bill mentioned that Discovery Routes is in decent shape and on budget, and commented on the "outstanding job" the Program Manager has done in keeping Discovery Routes' finances in check.

Resolution No. 1-10-03-07 Beckett-Bachelder

"That the 2006 Financial Report be accepted as presented"

4. Membership

A membership structure was presented (see attached). A discussion ensued that suggested that the Trail Partner fee was reasonable, but that some groups may feel that \$120 would be a burden. A solution offered was that a part of this fee could include in-kind support. Many also felt that the membership campaign is a very good idea, but will have to be 'sold' to municipalities and other potential partners because of the low profile Discovery Routes currently holds.

Resolution No. 2-10-03-07 Corbeil-Thompson

"That the Membership Fee be adopted in support of the financial sustainability of Discovery Routes."

5. Election of Officers

Mark King invited Mark Vincent to preside over the Discovery Routes Election of Officers.

Resolution No. 3-10-03-07 Summers-Mitchell

“That Mark Vincent be named Election Chairperson.”

Mark Vincent opened the floor to further nominations for Officers and Directors. There were three new nominations:

Bill Beckett nominated Vic Trahan
Dan Corbeil nominated Mike Martel
Laurie Bachelder nominated David Thompson

The question was called three times.

Resolution No. 4-10-03-07 Christian-Boileau

“That the election nominations are closed.”

The following motion was carried:

Resolution No. 5-10-03-07

“That the following slate of officers be appointed to Discovery Routes Trails Organization

Mark King as Chair	Sharon Kitlar as Member-at-Large
Bill Beckett as Past-Chair	Arne Schmidt as Member-at-Large
<i>vacant</i> Vice-Chair	Walter Reich as Member-at-Large
Ken Turner as Treasurer	David Thompson as Member-at-Large
Susan Christian as Secretary	Mike Martel as Member-at-Large
Laurie Bachelder as Member-at-Large	Vic Trahan as Member-at-Large”

6. Presentation of New Executive

Chair Mark King presented Andre Boileau with a gift for his years of dedication to DRTO.

7. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Resolution No. 6-10-03-07 Thompson-Trahan

“That the meeting be adjourned.”