



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 19, 2008

North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce Boardroom
1375 Seymour Street, North Bay

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark King, Chair

Bill Beckett, Past Chair

Susan Christian, Secretary

Ken Turner, Treasurer

Walter Reich, Member-at-Large

REGRETS:

Sharon Kitlar, Member-at-Large

Arne Schmidt, Member-at-Large

Vic Trahan, Member-at-Large

Laurie Bachelder, Member-at-Large

David Thompson, Member-at-Large

Mike Martel, Member-at-Large

ALSO PRESENT:

Jennifer McCourt, Program Manager

Andrew Rideout, Co-op Student

Julia Hogan, Marketing Assistant

1. Welcome

Mark King chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Adoption of minutes of January 16, 2008

The minutes of January 16, 2008 were approved.

Resolution No. 01-03-19-08 Reich/Christian

“That the minutes of the January 16, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting be accepted as written.”

3. Correspondence

Five total correspondences were received – summary attached

Regarding the declined NECO application (for Voyer Trail Study): NECO’s funds have already been allocated until the end of March, but Discovery Routes is invited to re-apply in the next fiscal period. Discovery Routes has applied to the Ministry of Health Promotions for \$5,000 for the Voyer Trail study. Regarding the work schedule for the Nipissing Forest: None of the trails that Discovery Routes promotes are identified on the MNR Values Map and therefore are potential future cutting blocks. Nipissing Forest will be holding an open house in the spring to present the draft Forest Management Plan. The Program Manager will ensure that the Trans Canada Trail is identified in the provincial database. A Land Use Permit (LUP) may be required. Discovery Routes will look into the issue and advise trail partners whether or not it is in their best interest to obtain these permits to protect their trails from future cutting.

4. Trans Canada Trail Progress Report

There has been a change in the initial plan of the route. The section from McDonald Road towards Callander had to be re-routed because of a water crossing - someone had blasted a beaver dam and the

area became a lot wetter than expected. There will be an additional cost to Discovery Routes due to the re-routing, but the project will still remain within budget.

5. Trans Canada Trail Ontario Update

Sanderson Lang, the previous CEO of TCT Foundation, will not be returning to the organization. A new CEO is being recruited.

Discovery Routes has requested an advance on the TCT grant money still owing on the Callander project. Typically, the TCT Foundation provides 50% of the grant at the call of the tender, and 50% after the project is complete. Discovery Routes has asked for half of the remaining 50% (25% of the total grant). This request has been approved by the TCT Ontario Board and has moved onto the next level for approval.

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation has hired a new fundraiser. This change has initiated a new policy where any major funding that comes from Ontario will stay in Ontario. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation has also hired a new Public Relations officer.

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation currently has \$11 million allocated to the Federal Government for capital projects. Currently, Discovery Routes is the only organization working on a capital project in Ontario. The reason for the lack of development is that organizations across the province are struggling for the administrative funds. The TCT Foundation continues to attempt to re-allocate some of the capital funds to administrative funds to facilitate the development of new projects. Discovery Routes will alert the City of North Bay of the funding available through the TCT for the Booth and Birches Road connection.

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation wants to recognize Arne Schmidt as one of the founding board members of Trans Canada Trail Ontario. A plaque will be presented to him by the Foundation at a time deemed appropriate by Discovery Routes.

The Ontario Realty Corporation has recently acquired 44 km of abandoned rail lines from Peterborough south, and registered it with the Trans Canada Trail. When the Ontario Realty Corp took ownership of these lines, it became Crown Land. It was suggested that Discovery Routes should look into having the Ontario Realty Corp take over the rail lines in this region.

The issue regarding the Dam Trail in Magnetawan will not be resolved in the foreseeable future. The MNR is not willing to open up part of the Dam Trail due to liability issues. The Magnetawan and Area Business Association will decide if they will go to the municipality for support and go back to the MNR and the TCT to attempt once again to resolve the issue.

Trans Canada Trail Ontario is creating four regions in Ontario that will manage and promote the Trans Canada Trail in the surrounding areas. It has not been decided where these regions will be, but it was suggested that Discovery Routes may be able to fill the role on behalf of TCT Ontario.

6. Business arising from Coordinating Council

a. Ministry of Natural Resources

During Discovery Routes' Coordinating Council Meeting, many of the members expressed their frustration with the inconsistency regarding MNR work permit requirements. The Council suggested that Discovery Routes take on a lead position in dealing with MNR processes and speaking to them about standardizing their practices from one district to another. It was suggested that Discovery Routes host a workshop, inviting trail groups and members of the Ministry to come together and discuss the permit process. Staff of the MNR should be invited to Discovery Routes'

next Coordinating Council meeting where it can be discussed, and then Discovery Routes can host a workshop after hearing what both sides require from each other.

b. Near North Trail Association D-Trail

The Near North Trail Association and the Bonfield Snowmobile Club continue to receive opposition to the proposed link in the TOP D Trail through the Township of Chisholm. It is the feelings of the snowmobile association that there is a great deal of mis-information surrounding the trail, its proposed location and its allowable uses. Recognizing the history of trail issues through rural communities, Discovery Routes will work with the Near North Trail Association to resolve concerns and encourage support for the trail connection.

Resolution 03-03-19-08 Turner/Reich

“That Discovery Routes Trails Organization support the Near North Trail Association in their efforts to develop the TOP trail D through uninhabited Crown property in the southern portion of Chisholm Township to connect the region by snowmobile trail from Trout Creek north to the North Bay as indicated on the attached sketch.”

7. Trail Projects Update

a. Trail Map

Andrew Rideout is doing his Co-Op placement with Discovery Routes. During his seven week placement, he will be GPSing the trails to include on the map. Andrew will also be working with mapping software to convert the data to a format in which Discovery Routes will be able to transfer onto the map. Discovery Routes has made approximately \$7,000 from advertising space sales.

b. Pathways to Learning

Discovery Routes is considering the developing a school program where students would use the trails as part of their studies. The Near North District School Board has applied on behalf of Discovery Routes for money that will be used towards this project.

c. Voyer Trail Action Plan

Discovery Routes has received a promise of \$3,000 each from the municipalities of East Ferris and North Bay. NECO, however, has declined the organization’s request for an additional \$3,000. Discovery Routes has applied to the Ministry of Health Promotions for \$5,000 to go towards the Action Plan.

d. Membership Campaign

Since the membership launch, Discovery Routes has obtained twelve memberships.

8. Financial Report

An Income Statement and Balance Sheet covering the period from the last Executive Committee meeting until March 19, 2008 are attached.

The following resolution was carried:

Resolution No. 04-03-19-08 - Turner/Beckett

“That the financial report be approved as presented.”

9. New Business

The former Revenue Minister, Greg Sarborsa, has been appointed to do a tourism study for Ontario. It was suggested that Discovery Routes invite him to the region to explain the importance of trails. Discovery Routes will send a letter to Monique Smith, MPP with the invitation request.

10. Date of Next Meeting (April 10 - Dan Andrews, TCT Ontario)

The General Manager of Trans Canada Trail Ontario will be passing through North Bay on April 10. He will be taking a tour of the Trans Canada Trail through Callander. Discovery Routes is inviting the Executive Committee, as well as the media to join the tour.

11. Adjournment

Resolution 05-03-19-08 - Reich/Beckett

“That the meeting be adjourned.”