



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 13, 2009

West Nipissing Arena Boardroom

Gertrude Street, North Bay

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark King, Chair	David Thompson, Member-at-Large
Bill Beckett, Past Chair	Mike Martel, Member-at-Large
Sharon Kitlar, Member-at-Large	Vic Trahan, Member-at-Large
Walter Reich, Member-at-Large	Laurie Bachelder, Member-at-Large

REGRETS:

Ken Turner, Treasurer	Susan Christian, Secretary
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ALSO PRESENT:

Jennifer McCourt, Program Manager	Julia Hogan, Public Relations Coordinator
Bob Rowlandson, President, VMUTS	

1. Welcome

Mark King chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Adoption of minutes of April 14, 2009

Resolution No. 01-05-13-09 Bachelder/Martel

“That the minutes of the April 14, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting be accepted as written.”

3. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

4. OVR Rail Line – Bob Rowlandson

As of May 1, 2009, no trains have been travelling along the Ottawa Valley Railink (OVR) line between Mattawa and Smith Falls due to lay-offs of maintenance staff. The only traffic currently running the line services Tembec between North Bay and Temiskaming. The rail line currently requires roughly \$7 million worth of upgrades, and neither OVR nor CPR are unwilling or able to do the required maintenance. Mr. Rowlandson will be requesting that the five mayors involved in the Bonfield Economic Development Corporation sign a resolution that recognizes the importance of the rail line as a transportation and recreational corridor that requires protection.

Discovery Routes will coordinate a meeting of stakeholders across the region with the intention of establishing a committee to explore the opportunities that may present themselves in the event of the trail being abandoned.

5. Trans Canada Trail Funding update

Discovery Routes' Program Manager spoke with a representative from the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, and no indication of funding has been provided yet.

6. Trans Canada Trail Committee Report

Sandy Cove Marine North will be attending the event on June 21st to provide information about motorized trail use. Pat Kilroy will be demonstration bikejoring along the MacDonald arm of the trail. The North Bay Geocachers Association will be volunteering during the event, showing participants how to geocache. GPS units are being provided courtesy of the Town of Mattawa. École secondaire catholique Algonquin has graciously allowed Discovery Routes access to their fleet of mountain bikes, giving participants the opportunity to bike along the Stonecutter's arm of the trail. The GPS units and bikes will be signed out. The logistics still have to be finalized. It is unknown whether there will be equestrian representatives at the event. Knowlton Ridge has been contacted, though they are unsure if they will be able to attract volunteers to attend. The shuttle bus will be booked from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm. It will transport participants between the trail and the South Shore Community Centre. The food and other refreshments still have to be finalized.

7. ATV Raffle

Discovery Routes has partnered with the Nosbonsing Anglers and Hunters in an ATV raffle. The ATV will be purchased from North Bay Cycle and Sports. North Bay Cycle will pay to have the tickets printed. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of June, and the draw will be held in January of 2010. Tickets will be sold for \$5 a piece, or 3 can be purchased for \$10.

8. Bike Train

The Bike Train to North Bay has been confirmed from August 7th to 10th. A partnership has been developed between the Bike Trail, ONR, the City of North Bay, Discovery Routes, and local accommodations. A full itinerary will be available within the next couple of months.

9. Trail Signage Project

The pre-application to the Rural Economic Development Program through the Ministry of Rural Affairs has been sent. The application involves a partnership between 15 trail partners and 8 municipalities with a budget estimate of \$220,000. The project spans from West Nipissing to Mattawa, and south to Kearney, and involves the development of regional trail signage standards and installation of over 50 major trail signs.

10. Financial Report

An Income Statement and Balance Sheet covering the period from the last Executive Committee Meeting until May 13, 2009 was presented.

The following resolution was carried:

Resolution 02-05-13-09 Reich/Beckett

“That the financial report be approved as presented.”

11. New Business

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation will be hosting their Annual General Meeting in Ottawa from September 25, 2009 until September 26, 2009.

12. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be decided by the Chair.

13. Adjournment

The following resolution was carried:

Resolution 03-05-13-09 Martel/Trahan

“That the meeting be adjourned.”