



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 16, 2008

City of North Bay 5th Floor Board Room
200 McIntyre Street, North Bay

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark King, Chair
Susan Christian, Vice Chair
Sharon Kitlar, Member-at-Large
Walter Reich, Member-at-Large
Laurie Bachelder, Member-at-Large
Mike Martel, Member-at-Large
Vic Trahan, Member-at-Large

REGRETS:

Bill Beckett, Past-Chair
Ken Turner, Treasurer
Arne Schmidt, Member-at-Large
David Thompson, Member-at-Large

ALSO PRESENT:

Jennifer McCourt, Program Manager
Keith Harriman, Harriman and Associates
Julia Hogan, Marketing Assistant

1. Welcome

Mark King chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Mark began the meeting by speaking of two issues that Discovery Routes needs to consider. Mark and Jennifer were involved in a lengthy 'examination of discovery' against Discovery Routes brought on by the lawsuit against the organization for the accident on the abandoned CN rail corridor in 2003. Discovery Routes must look into ways that it can protect itself against future legal liabilities.

Mark informed the Executive that the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce will be writing a letter to the City of North Bay regarding the dangerous trail situation on Birches Road, where trail users are using the shoulder of the road. The City's capital budget does not have money allocated to trail development until 2010.

2. Adoption of minutes of November 21, 2007

The minutes of November 21, 2007 were approved.

Resolution No. 01-01-16-08 - Reich/Bachelder

"That the minutes of the November 21, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting be accepted as written."

3. Correspondence

Six total correspondences were received – summary attached

Regarding the nomination to the Nipissing Forest Local Citizens Committee, Jennifer will remain the trail representative until Susan Christian is able to devote time to the Committee, at which time she will replace Jennifer as the representative.

4. Trans Canada Trail Progress Report

Keith Harriman presented the progress of the trail to date through Callander. There is some concern that the budget will not allow for the trail to be completed between Stone Road and Soul Road. Expenses will be tracked closely to ensure that the trail does not exceed the budget. Alternative to the Stone/Soul Road connection, the route will be signed along Highway 654.

5. Voyer Road Trail

An issue has arisen that will cause delays for the Voyer Trail. Dyno Nobel, formerly ETI had agreed to allow the trail to cross their property as long as Federal safety distances were maintained. However, this permission was rescinded in correspondence from the head office. It is speculated that this change could be due to rumours of a future sale of the property. Keith requested advice from the Committee as to whether the study should proceed. The Committee agreed that Keith should continue, but to include a few options as to where the trail can be re-routed in case the Dyno Nobel issue cannot be resolved.

Jennifer informed the Committee that the municipalities of East Ferris and North Bay both agreed to contribute \$3,000 each towards the study. Discovery Routes will submit applications to both NECO and CIAF for an additional \$3,000 each to be put towards the study.

The following resolution was carried:

Resolution No. 02-01-16-08 - Martel/Trahan

“That Discovery Routes Trails Organization supports the Voyer Trail Action Plan and the application to the Ministry of Health Promotion through the Communities in Action Fund for funding for the project.”

Resolution No. 03-01-16-08 - Bachedler/Reich

“That Discovery Routes Trails Organization supports the Voyer Trail Action Plan and the application to NECO - Community Futures Development Corporation through the Local Initiatives Program for funding for the project.”

6. 2008 Budget and Project Overviews

a. Trail Map

The Trail Map project will be designed as an annual fundraiser for the organization. It is anticipated that \$10,000 will be raised as a result of selling advertising to the business community. An information package is attached.

b. School Program

The initiation of a youth program is based on the assumption that Discovery Routes will be eligible for a lottery license if the proceeds are directed towards this program. Sharon Kitlar will speak to a colleague who is involved with issuing lottery licenses for the City, and Mike Martel will speak with the East Ferris Anglers and Hunters about their lottery license to see whether either can advise Discovery Routes how to proceed.

c. Voyer Trail Feasibility Study

Discovery Routes will work with the consultant, Keith Harriman, on the report allowing for some of the funds raised to be paid out to the organization for services rendered.

d. Almaguin Highlands Economic Development

The Almaguin Highlands Economic Development committee is interested in putting together a trails project. The project will include an inventory of the trails within the Almaguin Highlands. The inventory will be the basis for a Trails and Tours kit available for distribution by municipalities and information centres that will be updateable and easily photocopied so that visitors to the region will be able to access trail information.

meeting with the group on January 17, 2008 and will have more information following this meeting.

The following resolution was carried:

Resolution No. 04-01-16-08 - Christian/Reich

“That Discovery Routes proceed with the Almaguin Highlands Economic Development trail guide project.”

a. Membership

The membership campaign will be officially launched during the Coordinating Council meeting in mid-February.

7. Financial Report

An Income Statement and Balance Sheet covering the period from the last Executive Committee meeting until the end of 2007 are attached.

The following resolution was carried:

Resolution No. 05-01-16-08 - Trahan/Martel

“That the financial report be approved as presented.”

8. Coordinating Council Meeting/Membership Launch – mid-Feb 2008

Discovery Routes is in the process of planning the event. No date has been set as Discovery Routes is waiting to hear from Monique Smith’s office as to when she is available for the Trillium Foundation recognition.

9. New Business

a. Vic Trahan questioned the group as to whether Discovery Routes has considered an interpretive signage project. This type of project can attract sponsors, and therefore be a revenue generator as well as an information provider. Walter informed the group that the Magnetawan Area Business Association was involved with an interpretive signage project, and that Ken Turner should be contacted for further information. Sharon also mentioned that the City of North Bay will be involved in a signage project through the Black Forest trails in the summer.

b. Susan Christian informed the Committee that Greening Nipissing is hosting a meeting on January 24, 2008.

c. Bunny Tucker has requested a position on our Board of Directors. The Committee agreed that it would be more appropriate for Bunny to become a member of the Coordinating Council representing the South Shore/Restoule Snowmobile Club. Discovery Routes will send out invitations to various clubs within the region inviting them to the upcoming Coordinating Council meeting where they can elect a member of their organization to sit on this Council.

10. Adjournment

Resolution 06-01-16-08 - Reich/Martel

“That the meeting be adjourned.”