

Action Summary Merrickville Wolford Trails Sub Committee (MWTSC) Thursday, Dec 8th, 2016, from 1030 am to 1230 pm, at the Fire Hall Classroom, Merrickville-Wolford Municipal Complex

MWTSC agenda:

1. The meeting came to order at 1005 am. **Attendees:** Joann Helmer, Anne Barr, Anne Tener, Fred McFarland, Doug Struthers, Tim Allen
2. **Agenda was approved as circulated**
3. **No new comments on action summary of Nov 3rd meeting (circulated)**
4. **Communications**
 - a. **from Council:**
 - i. Council supports in principle the development of the Wetlands Trail. We will proceed with the budget request and preparatory activities (see item 5 below)
 - ii. "At the Nov 14, 2016 meeting, Council received the Nov 8 minutes of the Recreation Committee (see attached). It was agreed that the Recreation Committee, the Trails Sub-Committee, and Dave Powers, Manager of Public Works, would meet to review the survey results of the Merrickville Estates Phase 1 Park, and look at costing some items."

Discussion:

- It would seem that Block 72 would most likely be suitable for a natural park. It is surrounded by private property, so is not really appropriate for trail development.
- Blocks 70,71, and 73 are linear and aligned, crossing roads and with some access from both ends, but they are surrounded by private property, so possibilities have some limits. Moreover, large parts are essentially a drainage channel, with limited footpath availability. A decision on whether this could be a trail needs further evaluation and information.
- we will wait to hear from the RAC concerning next steps for this question.
- The Master plan already includes generic items for new trails
*« Links with existing trails , within Village , and without;
new walks within the Village »*
but no specific new trails have been added since the plan was first approved in 2012. This would be a good opportunity to review the plan, both for the anticipated trails that have not been developed, and for new additions that are worthy. The MDTS will undertake this review and bring it forward for discussion to Council and the RAC in 2017.

b. from RAC:

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- i. Minutes of Nov 3rd RAC meeting were previously circulated. We note with regret that the open space committee has been disbanded.
 - c. **from Friends of Limerick Forest:** minutes of Oct 27 meeting attached. Nick Previsich has talked to Geoff McVey about X-country ski trail development.
 - d. **from others:** none
- 5. Priorities and needs (support and budget) for 2017**
 - a. **Budget request for trail development, upgrades and maintenance, and for trails promotion:** There was discussion on the comprehensiveness of the proposed plans for the Wetlands Trail. Further details will be added, even though they do not have a direct impact on this budget request to Council. Revised document appended.
 - b. **Grant request for MDTS:** grant requests will be dealt with by Council a bit later as part of a global process once the overall available budget is determined. We will submit now, for consideration at the appropriate later time. Some funds to participate in pertinent regional activities will be added. Revised document appended
- 6. New business/projects:**
- 7. Summary of communications**
 - a. **to Council :** item 4a) ii, and items 5a and b, with appendices
 - b. **to RAC:** item 4a) ii, and items 5a and b, with appendices
 - c. **to others:** none
- 8. Next meeting:** spring 2017, date to be determined
- 9. Meeting adjourned at 1130 am**

Appendix 1 :

Merrickville - Wolford Trails: Budget request for 2017: revised by MWTSC and MDTs executive on December 8th, 2016

Budget request 2017 for Trails development and maintenance:

- these projects are all consistent with the Master Plan.
- all work done by Trails Society members and friends is on a volunteer basis.
- budget is for unavoidable external costs

Project	Objectives 2017	Details of item requirements for budget	Costs
Develop Wetland Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop detailed proposal to request and obtain permissions from appropriate authorities (e.g. RVCA, PC) for trail development • identify external funding needs, opportunities and timelines • begin preparatory work on trail in spring/fall 2017 (e.g. trail clearing, clean-up Fairgrounds perimeter) • develop detailed work plan for 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVCA application process and application fees • preliminary design fees for structures (viewing platform, +/- boardwalk) • reserve for unexpected costs for this phase (e.g. map preparation, verifications) 	\$1000
Maintain and upgrade Woodland-Toboggan Hill Loops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete improvement of footpath • Update trailhead maps (considerable re-routing from new sewage plant) • Signage along trail, rest areas and benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one load of stone dust • large photo maps • informative signs along trail • material for benches 	\$1800
Produce and distribute Trail brochures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures are printed by municipality but not folded. • Distribution reorganized: Chamber will furnish merchants, public availability at the Depot in summer, and volunteers will continue to distribute to key points (Bank, Library, Municipal offices, ? kiosks) or on request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 brochures per year • Mechanical folding by Coba @10 cents per brochure 	\$200
		Total requested for 2017	\$3000

Appendix 2 :

Merrickville Trails Society grant request for 2017: revised by MDTs executive (and by MWTSC) on December 8th, 2016

<p>Grant request for the MDTs for 2017:</p>
<p>General justification: besides developing and building trails, the MDTs also tries to promote and facilitate the use of trails by organising activities that will attract new users and contribute to the general well-being of the community. In the past we have organized day-long trail activities during Open Doors days, speakers on interesting trail walks and other nature topics, Voyageur canoe rides to the bird sanctuary, as well as group walks along our trails and nearby trails. Costs are kept to a minimum, most work is volunteer and much is given in kind, but there are costs and it seems counterproductive to charge "admission fees" if we wish to attract new users and new arrivals to the community. We are conscious of the need to pay particular attention to organizing activities that might attract younger participants, both accompanied and un-accompanied.</p>
<p>Estimated costs: For a special activity day we can anticipate some or all of the following costs: simple refreshments (for 50 people) \$50; speaker or leader honorarium \$100; large room rental \$150; Voyageur canoe afternoon \$225; ancillary costs \$50. Exact expenses vary with the activities, but an average activity of this kind requires about \$250.</p>
<p>Request for 2017: The MDTs requests a grant of \$750, to be used in organising and holding three activities on three occasions, activities that are designed to attract community members to the trails and their use.</p>