

Council of Community Organizations Meeting held on Jan. 21, 2010

The COCO Meeting was held on January 21, 2010 at the Lakeside Community Centre in Lakeside. Shelley Thomas, Resource Opportunities Centre, Terence Bay, chaired the meeting.

HRM Councillors Reg Rankin and Peter Lund were in attendance to hear the issues first hand and to give information about HRM and provincial endeavours.

Geoff LeBoutillier St Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, and Beth McGee, Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust, gave a presentation on behalf of the **Chebucto Wilderness Coalition**. A map of the Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area (FBLCWA) was presented to aid the discussion. Considerable discussion ensued about points of access to the Candidate Wilderness Area. Lands were flagged for request for inclusion that were not included when FBLCWA was declared.

The list noted below was compiled from our discussion. The areas in Bold are ones to be followed up in discussion with Nova Scotia Environment in the Public Consultation phase.

Known Access points to the FBLC Wilderness Area

1. The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail-**Lands owned by DoT were omitted and need to be included**
- 1.(a) **Piece of Crown Land across Hwy 103/3 needs to be added to provide opportunity for connectivity to Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes W.A.**
2. Access trail on Crown land from east side of Silver Birch Drive opposite 199 Silver Birch Drive, Hubley to larger Crown land holdings
3. Joshua Slocum Trail (**piece of Crown Land on the west side of Birch Hill Lake needs to be added**)
3. (a) **There is an important access point to Birch Hill Lake from Hubley Big Lake that needs to be added from the Crown Land in that area**
4. **The proposed connector trail leading to the Joshua Slocum Trail (North West section of Crown Land in Tantallon) needs further discussion with NSE following resolution of the ATV route**
4. (a) With the building of a new fire station in Tantallon the Bay Road fire station could become a site for other uses. Possible alternate site for a connector trail? Parking for ATV's to get them and their vehicles off Joshua Slocum Ave.
5. The Old Halifax Road leading from Glen Haven to Three Brooks subdivision in Hubley
6. The Woodens River Road connecting to the old Halifax Road and through private lands to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road
7. The Old St. Margaret's Bay Road leading from Glen Margaret through to Goodwood

8. The Cleveland Road connecting from Wayside Campground to the Dovers on the south side and to the north connecting through private lands to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road
8. (a) **Lands at Big Lake need to be included.**
8. (b) **We should add Blind Bay Preserve to our discussion list. A chunk of the Preserve is disputed - probably why it was excluded.**
9. Possible Trail from Blind Bay area (Welch's Lake (Hwy333) to Lower Trout Lake on the westerly and on the easterly to Moore's Lake?)
9. (a) In Shad Bay area at eastern boundary of the Crown Land block there is a Fen on private land would be a wonderful addition
10. Shad Bay off Hwy 333 along the Nine Mile River to the Old Coach Road
11. Possible trail leading from Hwy333 to Fiddle Lake
11. (a) Subdivision roads at Fiddle Lake and other lakes on the Prospect River system
12. On HRM lands there is a trail from Nichol's lake, near Hwy333 to the Old Coach Road
13. On HRM lands, The Pipeline Road from Exhibition Park on Hwy333 to Big Indian lake
14. On HRM lands, The Greenhead Road from Hwy3 to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road
15. We need to examine connectivity to the Terence Bay Wilderness Area.
16. *We need to examine connectivity to Long Lake Provincial Park and to the Western Common Wilderness Common- *this point was added following the meeting when the notes were compiled*

Dusan Soudek agreed/volunteered to be our point person on items 9, 9 (a) and 10.

In discussion of #4, Tantallon, Peter Lund said a new Fire Station is to be built probably just west of the new Ambulance Station which sits beside the SMBSA-Fares parcel (which runs along the East River from St. Mgt's Bay Rd around behind the new mall). John Leon from SMBSA reports that access through the proposed Fire Station land to the SMBSA-Fares parcel, and through that to the currently excluded Crown land, is amenable to HRM. John also reports that, if the SMBSA decides to relinquish title to the parcel, to avoid liability issues HRM may prefer not to take it on and instead have it assigned to DNR. The parcel is seen as a vital gateway-connector from Tantallon to the FBLWA. If as seems likely the new fire station is built, and the Seabright and Bay stations amalgamated there, then access to Joshua Slocum Road, PLUS parking for the OHV crowd, might be provided via the DNR-owned land on which the present Bay Rd. Vol. Fire Dept sits at Lewis Lake. This potential ATV-FBLWA connector was contemplated several years ago, is very close to the Rails to Trails, and would keep ATVs away from the dangerous congestion beside the two emergency vehicle stations.

Tom Musial, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition, outlined what he saw as the role of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition in dealing with NSE. We

are the community reps on the ground and have good local knowledge to contribute and can be of assistance in ironing out issues. There was concurrence on those points. There was a question about DNR's willingness to resolve any dispute over the Blind Bay Park Reserve. As already noted, the area is on our request list for inclusion in the FBLWA.

John Cascadden, McDonald Lake Homeowner's Association, gave an update on the Drysdale Bog situation and his follow-up following the recent public meeting. He had received an e-mail from the HRMM Planner Richard Harvie in response to some queries. The response from the planner did not give John any indication about the direction Planning will take. John requested that the classification of I3 be set aside. He expressed concerns about the tire project at C&D Recycling.

Councillor Rankin was able to tell us the next steps to be taken following the Public Meeting. The Planner will prepare a Staff Report. WRCC Councillors await the report and then they will make a resolution. Concern was expressed that only two options were presented at the Public Meeting. A third option could have been presented.

Councillor Rankin outlined his intent to put forth a resolution to HRM Council to urge the province to undertake an Environmental Review of the area where the Tire recycling plant is slated to be established. Reg Rankin gave us the history of the process undergone to establish a site for tire recycling in NS.

There was discussion about containment of surface run-off. In the event of a fire each tire has the potential to release 4 litres of oil; cadmium and zinc are also released. There are grave concerns being expressed by citizens that substances could be released into the ground water which supplies the drinking water to citizens of Goodwood and those further afield.

Mr. Rankin then circulated a petition. The signatories urged Nova Scotia Environment to undertake an Environmental Review of the area where the tire recycling plant is slated to be built.

The matter of the Environmental review is being reviewed with Counsel for Nova Scotia Environment.

NSE needs regulations for this type of operation as there are few government regulations in place that safeguard the environment.

Geoff leBoutillier, St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, updated on the findings of a group of citizens' inventory of Troop's Island. One of the trees found is thought to be one of the oldest and largest Yellow Birch in NS. Other entities were also cited. The inventory will be used with government and others to present reasons why the island should be purchased and be part of the public land system.

Dusan Soudek, Canoe Kayak NS, outlined some important canoe/kayak portages that need to be included in the FBLWA. These points have been included in the discussion about Access points to the FBLWA as noted earlier.

Catherine Klefenz, BLT Rails to Trails, advised that her group has been waiting to hear about a meeting about the Chester Spur Line. No news as yet. Reg Rankin will follow up on this piece.

She also reported about water from a pump near a sidewalk is being diverted onto the trail. This matter needs to get resolved.

Flyers about the **Wooden's River Watershed Environmental Organization AGM at 7 p.m., Wednesday Feb 17** were distributed.

Shelley Thomas, Resource Opportunity Centre, advised that the building of the Prospect Community Centre is a little ahead of schedule. Opening will be in May of 2010.

Shelley Thomas was thanked for her work as Chair of the Meeting.

Date of Next COCO Meeting is March 18, hosted by FBWHT. The venue will be announced.

The Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.