Notes from the COCO Meeting on September 21, 2011

The meeting held at the Prospect Road Community Centre was chaired by Barbara Allen of the Resource Opportunities Centre in Terence Bay.

Representatives from Resource Opportunities Centre, Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails, Safety Minded ATV/St.Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails, Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust, St.Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association , McDonald's Lake Residents Association, Brookside Homwowners Association ,Councillor Reg Rankin and persons from the community were in attendance .

Updates follow.

McDonald 's Lake Residents' Association:

Members are working on a neighbourhood park with access to McDonald Lake , creating trails along the lake ; work is in progress for having a viewing ramp which will be wheelchair accessible. There will also be a 16'x40'picnic area with three picnic tables. This venture is supported by the Province and HRM.

Few parties were held this year at neighbouring Nichol's Lake.

Safety Minded ATV Association/St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails:

The SMB Rails to trails looks after 33 kms of trails from Hubley to Hubbards. Safety Minded ATV Club members help with the maintaining of this trail. Recently swinging gates replaced the old bollard system giving greater ease to grading activities. Members installed 32 one km signs facing out 90 degrees when you walk. Community signs will also be installed.

Councillor Rankin asked if there are any trails coming off the rail bed from Lewis Lake to Chester. No formal trails at this point.

The ATV Club also maintains a number of kilometres in Bowater lands. Maintenance is always around upkeep of bridges and clearing away blow downs

The Esso Trail has had the bridge re-decked.

No arrangements have been able to be made to have the rail bridge over the Hammonds Plains Road repainted.

When the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area is designated there are 12 persons on the Prospect Road who are interested in joining the SM ATV Club

Brookside Homeowners'Association:

Members are building trails in the new part along the lake. New young families are moving into the area. At Lover's Cove there is a new park with picnic shelter. Kite flying is taking place at Nancy Cove.

Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails:

The abandoned rail corridors through HRM are owned by DNR but DNR does not give $$ for maintenance. DNR and Health and Wellness are trying to work together BLT R2T is being taken on by HRM as a sample trail . HRM would like to have control of BLT R2Tand other trails in HRM. SM ATV will write to Councillor Rankin who wishes any process about ownership/maintenance of a trail in HRM to be inclusive.

A grant for a Bird watching program has provided books and binoculars for those who take part in the program. Sue Borkowski leads this program.

Nordic Walking activities continue to be popular.

Mopeds are now a problem on the trail where speed limits of 20 km should be maintained to ensure safety to a wide variety of users. HRM needs a policy. Catherine Klefenz is to write to Councillor Reg Rankin about this matter.

Four new benches are to be installed as a result of donors' generosity.

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust:

Members are looking forward to the imminent announcement about designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. A reprint of the Flora brochure for the Bluff Wilderness Hiking trail is in progress.

St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association:

Discussion about the prospective sale of Troop's island and the community's efforts to place an offer.The sale has to happen at or near market value in order for other funding streams to be accessed.

Series of milestone are being reached this fall when agreement is reached for the zoning by-laws for the Village of Upper Tantallon . Developers will then have clearer guidelines.

SMBSA has received a 15K grant to build resilience in the community. Will be looking at how to foster local economies, address storm surge issues, local agriculture, more efficient ways of supporting transportation

Resource Opportunities Centre:

Newsletter in shiny paper and new format was shared with those present

There will be a pathway built from the Prospect Road Community Centre to the Prospect Elementary School with a $175 K budget.

A big sign and inside signs at the Prospect Road Community centre are awaited.

There is a sub committee formed to create an outdoor playground at the centre.

The ROC's Alternative Giving Initiative was outlined.

Councillor Reg Rankin's Update:

Reg advised that HRM Councillors in the boundaries discussion .HRM has been instructed by the UARB to reduce the number of its Councillors form 22 to 16.There was much discussion about the fact that Councillors in District 22723 have worked closely together. This has served our communities around the Hwy 3-333 loop very well. The proposals before us have some merit and lots of confusions. Councillor Ranking outlined how the boundary proposals were established by staff.

An interpretation of the Drysdale Bog recommendations was requested . This will require elaboration at our next COCO meeting as we ran out of time on September 21.

The next COCO Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 17 at the Tantallon Public Library, Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust will be the host group.