

# MEETING MINUTES



MEETING DATE	<b>River Systems Advisory Committee</b> May 15, 2013
LOCATION TIME	City Hall - Meeting Room "B" 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Jeremy Shute (Chair), Stan Kozak, Ian McCormick, Jo-Anne McDermott, Karen Chisholme
STAFF PRESENT	Adele Labbé, Michelle Mercier
MEMBERS ABSENT	Eric Wilson, Nicola Lower, Mariette Pushkar, Sara Ashpole

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
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1	<p><b>Welcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll call and certification of quorum</li> <li>▪ Declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest – None</li> <li>▪ Adoption of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting Minutes – deferred to next meeting</li> <li>▪ Review of agenda – Item 4 moved to before Item 2, add 180 Gordon OMB decision to end. Adele to send an email to all RSAC members to advise that the July meeting has been moved to June 19.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p><b>1. Proposed formalization of “The Rapids” Sidetrail by GHTC</b></p> <p>Delegations – Bill Mungall (Guelph Hiking Trail Club), Jyoti Pathak (Parks Planner), Karen Sabzali (Manager of Parks &amp; Open Space)</p> <p>Jyoti Pathak, Park Planner for the City of Guelph provided some background on the Guelph Hiking Trail Club’s proposal for “The Rapids” Sidetrail. City staff have been working with the Trail Club on implementing parts of the Trail Master Plan and this proposal would be for a formalized footpath along the west side of the Speed River. This project is similar to the previous project that the GHTC brought to RSAC for the footpath along the Eramosa River in the Guelph Innovation District (GID) Lands.</p> <p>Bill Mungall, Guelph Hiking Trail Club advised that the club was formed in 1972 and has 38 trails including 3 in Guelph and offer 360 hikes a year. They are looking at new trails and trail connections especially in and out of Guelph. Bill advised that this proposal covers lands that are owned by the City, GRCA and Armtec and is a current ad hoc footpath that has not been established and is not maintained. They would like to have it formalized and managed by the club.</p>

The trail would be 1.4 km from the northern limits of Goldie Mill to the spur just south of Speedvale Ave along a continuous series of rapids. They are looking to enter into agreements with the landowners, provide maintenance and signs and clear a 3 ½ - 4 foot wide footpath. Bill advised that there are changes to both ends of the proposed alignment as a result of consulting with stakeholders such as City staff, GRCA. There is a PSW on the northern edge and they are looking at going around the PSW and closing access to the existing ad hoc footpath through the PSW. They are also planning on shortening the south end by a couple hundred metres for safety reasons and are looking at starting at the back of Wolfond Park until the safety concerns can be addressed.

General discussion took place and some of the comments and concerns that were raised by committee members and the responses included:

- concern about the trail being opened up to bikes – GHTC indicated they would look at creating natural obstacles out of tree stumps
- inquired whether GRCA identified any concerns with slope stability given proximity to river
- explore possibility of walking under Speedvale Ave bridge, could be connecting point if done between trail and riverside park - GRCA and City land
- need to look at informal/ ad hoc trails through Wolfond and Herb Markle Parks and, close the ones that are inappropriate
- are there opportunities for benches, amenities along trail? GHTC indicated they will be trying to get logs moved to appropriate location for viewing
- Goldie Mill should be the main entrance, understanding work needs to be done first for safety, do not lose sight of main entrance point
- many people hangout in this area, could encourage them to volunteer to help clean up trail
- health and safety issues – GHTC trails are open dawn to dusk

Jyoti advised that they have also sent the proposal to the GRCA and their initial reaction has been supportive however they need to review the proposal in further detail. There will also need to be licensing agreements made up with the City, GRCA and Armtec. As well, it was noted that the formalized footpath by the GHTC would not meet any City trail standards, as it is below the standard for even a tertiary trail. Jyoti indicated that they are looking to see if RSAC has any concerns or if they are supportive of the project.

Karen Sabzali (Manager of Parks & Open Space) provided an update on by-law enforcement in parks. Karen advised that there is not a parks by-law but is included in the nuisance by-law and can be enforced to a point however there are challenges.

Jeremy Shute requested an update for the GID trail and Jyoti advised that they are in the process of working on the agreement between the City and GHTC and the plan is for it to open at the end of the summer.

Moved by Jo-Anne McDermott and seconded by Stan Kozak

“That the River Systems Advisory Committee support the Rapids Trail Proposal as presented while suggesting that the southern Goldie Mill entrance be developed when feasible.”

Motion Carried  
-Unanimous-

## **2. Status of RSAC Workplan for 2013**

The Committee reviewed the workplan for 2013 and general discussion took place. It was discussed that RSAC should be supplying comments on the GID Secondary Plan and a subcommittee was set up made up of Mariette Pushkar, Nicola Lower and Jeremy Shute to review. It was decided that the Action Items section on the agenda should be used for upcoming items ie. Annual report – June and GID – June. Adele will send the workplan to the Committee to review and Jo-Anne to review and add her name to the items which she would like to be involved in.

## **3. Review of Municipal EA Notices of Commencement**

Adele Labbé updated the Committee on upcoming Environmental Assessment Projects. Adele advised that the Notices of Commencement are the first steps, followed by the EA process, the design phase and then the project. Adele noted that RSAC should assign a project lead for each project who could attend the public meetings and keep RSAC members informed.

Adele will also encourage City staff to attend RSAC meetings to keep the committee informed as the projects move forward.

RSAC noted that any bridge comments should include comments about signage.

Project leads were assigned for the following projects:

- Speedvale Ave improvements – Jo-Anne McDermott
- Green Meadow Park – Flood Protection – Jeremy Shute
- Niska Rd Bridge – Nicola Lower

## **4. Progress on the 2012 Summary of Activities**

The Committee discussed the Summary Report and changes were made to chart. Adele Labbé will send Stan Kozak the updated chart for Stan to add comments to the last column. Stan will send out the updated chart to all Committee members to be reviewed prior to the next meeting.

## **5. Ontario Great Lakes Funding Opportunity**

Adele Labbé provided some background information and an update to the Ontario Great Lakes Funding program application that was made by RSAC in April. Adele advised that the funding request is for up to \$25,000 for a project to enhance riparian vegetation along the Speed River and reviewed the application form. If the grant is provided, RSAC will need to select which sites to focus on.

3	<p><b>Committee Updates/Other Business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flood Control Structures – Alan Mill’s Pond Stan Kozak advised that the water levels at the Alan’s millpond were not raised in April as per normal practice due to contrition challenges associated with replacing the water control structure. This has caused concern in the neighbourhood since there is significant participation there in an annual toad rescue to get the migrating adults across the road to breed in the pond but without the pond no breeding is taking place. The neighbourhood is looking for an update from the City on the status of the work being done. Adele Labbé advised that there will be a public meeting coming up and that notice will be going out shortly.</li> <li>2. 180 Gordon decision Adele Labbé provided an update to the 180 Gordon St application that was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. The decision will allow for a 10 unit development instead of 11 to allow for a dripline for the cultural woodland on the adjacent property.</li> </ol>
4	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>Moved by Jo-Anne McDermott and seconded by Karen Chisholme</p> <p>“That the meeting be adjourned.”</p> <p>Adjourn - 6:00 pm</p>

**ACTION ITEMS**

ITEM #	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE	DESCRIPTION
1.	RSAC	June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the Summary of 2012 Activities Report</li> </ul>
2.	Mariette Pushkar, Nicola Lower and Jeremy Shute	June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review GID Secondary Plan and provide suggested comments or motion to the rest of committee.</li> </ul>
3.	Adèle and all RSAC members	June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize 2013 Workplan.</li> </ul>