

## **TAY POLICING COMMITTEE MINUTES – May 10, 2021**

### **Public Meeting: HAPPY TRAILS, TAY TRAIL SAFETY**

#### **CALL TO ORDER (SCOTT)**

Chair Scott Warnock called the Public Meeting to Order at 7 p.m. via ZOOM with Vicki as ZOOM host. Councillors Mary Warnock, Jeff Bumstead, and committee members were in attendance, as well as many members of the Public who had signed up to receive the meeting code and password.

Regrets: Jason Milne and Erin Coulter, OPP, expressed regrets but their official duties required their presence elsewhere.

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS PROVIDED VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT TAY TRAILS AND TRAIL SAFETY:**

- **TAY BYLAW OFFICER ROB KENNEDY** commenced the session by providing a general overview of Tay Bylaws applicable to local trails. The Tay Trail forbids motorized vehicles, dogs off leash, and requires stoop and scoop to clean up dog waste. He described the activities of Bylaw officers in responding to concerns and complaints, and filing a monthly report with Tay Council setting out the complaints and infractions. Rob described the biggest challenge for Tay Bylaw officers as the sheer volume of complaints and the challenges they pose for the small team consisting of Rob, Justin, and the summer student Emily.
- Rob encouraged anyone with a concern to email [mleo@tay.ca](mailto:mleo@tay.ca) as the more reports, the better. The reports of sightings of vehicles last year led to fines for repeat offenders using motorized vehicles on the Tay Trail. All Bylaw officers access this central email.
- **BRYAN ANDERSON, Manager of TAY Parks, Recreation and Facility Services** outlined the history of the Tay Trail. In 2004, the [Trans Canada Trail Foundation](#) gifted the 17 km of abandoned CN rail corridor to Tay Township. In June 2006, phase one was completed from the Wye River to Victoria Harbour. In September 2007, phase two was completed from Victoria Harbour to Waubaushene. The Trestle Trail section of the Tay Shore Trail was completed in September 2007 for a total of 18.5 km of

paved recreational trail. This invaluable resource combines the benefits of physical activity with the enjoyment of a natural setting. For some years, volunteers participated in Trail watches to educate users, patrol the Trail, and prevent damage. Simcoe County assists with funding for new benches, bridge repairs, and paving. The Tay Trail is “HEELS BEFORE WHEELS”.

- **HEIDI TILLMANS, TRANS CANADA TRAILS** outlined her work in managing and supporting signage on the National Trails for speed and etiquette. The Great Trail stretches 27,000 miles across Canada and is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Heidi assists local Trails with technical support, design and manufacturing of signage and manages sign funding. One of the biggest challenges to Trails across the country currently is the issue of motorized vehicles, specifically, e-bikes on the Trails.
- **Frieda Baldwin from Ganaraska Trail Hiking Club** described the Trail as covering 500 kilometres. This Trail is a minimum impact Trail which is not groomed. It depends on the generosity of local landowners. This is a “leave no trace” Trail. She outlined the challenges on the Trail from a hiking club perspective, and recommended proper preparation for hiking with maps, water and food, and using the “what3words” app which assists in locating lost hikers.
- **Brendan Matheson from the County of Simcoe** spoke from a cycling perspective about the amazing North Simcoe Loop Trail and measures taken to enhance safety. This Trail is a 160 kilometre loop in Simcoe County and trail guides and maps are available on Simcoe County Tourism website, or by email at: [tourism@simcoe.ca](mailto:tourism@simcoe.ca).

Participants and Guest speakers engaged in a lively and informative question and answer session.

**ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The Tay Community Policing Committee will be on hiatus until September.**