

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Tuesday, March 20, 2018				Report Date	Wednesday, March 14, 2018			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE - The Algonquin Trail									
Report #20/03/18 - 1102									

Subject: The Algonquin Trail**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt the following recommendations.

Resolution #1

WHEREAS the Council of the County of Renfrew have utilized taxpayer dollars to obtain a legal opinion with respect to the use of the lands known as the Algonquin Trail within Head, Clara & Maria;

AND WHEREAS this document will be used in part to formulate County Council decision making moving forward concerning the use of property within this municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby respectfully request that a copy of the legal opinion obtained by the committee be provided to this council for review and information.

Resolution #2

WHEREAS the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does see the benefit in providing correction to misinformation being circulated at the County level through local media;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does hereby authorize staff to create a press release reconfirming its position on the Algonquin Trail through Head, Clara & Maria to be circulated to local press.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1. Algonquin Trail – the Property and Development Committee has received its legal opinion which will go before the County of Renfrew the last week of March. The committee has already received and reviewed the opinion but has not determined if it will be made public.
2. Staff have been working to arrange/conduct stakeholder meetings, and arrange meetings with Snow Country, the Missing Link Snowmobile Club and the County of Renfrew ATV Club to address concerns with respect to the use of the trail within Head, Clara & Maria. Could individual members of Council provide times on the attached sheet which they would be available to attend the stakeholder meetings and submit at the Council meeting on the 20th? Staff will evenly distribute council members on required time slots, depending on whether or not meetings will be required. We will not know for some weeks, I will attempt to advise you asap so you can make plans.

3. Information concerning Council's position in the media. Does Council simply wish to let these statements go uncontested? Or should staff take steps to attempt to clarify the misinformation? Quotes, emails and reports are being used out of context.
- a. Item 1 – Property and Development Committee Report – Todd Dowser's email shows that there was consultation with the municipality. The difference is the use of ditches, "like they do on Logger's Road" vs. using the actual road.
 - b. Item 2 – Property and Development Committee Report – a report to the Missing Link Snowmobile Club and emails to the county from Jim Gibson from 2016 identifies the source of the problem this community finds itself in.
 - c. Item 3 – The Pembroke News Article – March, 2018 – the "blindsided" quote was from January of 2017 – the email referenced is dated July of 2017.
 - d. Item 4 – NRT Article – March 14, 2018. Much the same...

Options/Discussion:

Does public perception matter? Does Council wish to formulate and release a press release?

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith