



Halifax Regional Trails Association

Executive Tele-conference Record of decisions 24 May 2018

Attendees – Officers and Voting Directors

name	Position/Group	name	Position/Group
Paul Adlakha	Co-chair / SWEPS	Holly Woodill	Vice Chair / CHPTA
Anne Patrick	Past Chair SMBARTA	Zane Fraser	Treasurer/ PLATA
Michael McFadden	Secretary / CHPTA		

Regrets

Barry Dalrymple	Co-chair / WAAA	Ian Watt	Officer / COLTA
Paul Berry	Officer / WRWEO		

Item*	Record of decisions 24 May 2018	Action
Intro	<p>The tele-conference was requested by Paul Adlakha to discuss the issue of the Marine Riders application for membership in HRTA and Doug MacLeod's notice of motion for the July Meeting of the Board of directors.</p>	
	<p>General background. The membership application from the Marine Riders/Blueberry Run group was received by email. The contents of the application (distributed to the executive then the Board by email) was (with minor emendations)</p> <p>"I would like to at this time make an application to join Halifax Regional Trail Association (HRTA). I believe that we meet all your requirements. Our joint Stocks # is 3087634. There you will find a up to date list of our officers and executives. We are members of NS Trails. We Have over 32 kms of trails under LOA from DNR including 12kms of the Blueberry Run Trail. And more under Land use Agreements with private land owners.</p> <p>The reason that we the Marine Riders ATV Club would like to become a member of HRTA is to work more closely with other trail groups in building a better networks of multi-use trails. To gain expertise in trail building by networking with other trail groups. To build on that mutual understand and respect by being a member of the same associations."</p> <p>The application and some Facebook postings from the Marine Riders on the subject of SATA's recent LoA for an Active Transportation trail generated considerable discussion in emails and at the Board meeting 14 May 2018.</p> <p>After the meeting, Doug MacLeod, HRTA director (AVT) sent an email 22 May that was forwarded to the executive the same day. The text of the message:</p> <p>"I plan to introduce the following motion at the July 9 HRTA meeting and wanted to send along now to be distributed to the executive. If the motion can be tabled before the July 9 meeting, I request that this be done, and I will find an HRTA director to second the motion now. I would also like to request that any discussion on the membership of Marine Riders ATV Club - Blueberry Run be held without</p>	

Item*	Record of decisions 24 May 2018	Action
	<p>the presence of any representatives of the Marine Riders -Blueberry Run.</p> <p>I (Doug MacLeod) move that –</p> <p>“HRTA requests a staff report that examines the economic, trail user, community group, and environmental implications of including motorized use in HRM’s support for trails. This report would include but not be limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the addition of an existing motorized trail -the addition of a motorized trail network in HRM - the addition of recreational motorized trails in HRM -the addition of motorized AT trails in HRM <p>We further request that staff seek council’s direction on these matters “</p> <p>Both documents were discussed at length and several options were examined. HRTA Bylaws and recent precedents for processing membership applications provided foundation for the discussion. After making some decisions on various aspects of the issue, it was unanimously agreed to proceed as follows:</p>	
18-005	<p>MR/BR membership application.</p> <p>The Executive felt</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that although there were some gaps in the application from a By-Law membership criteria perspective it was not all that different from other successful applications. 2. There is no legislative or regulatory reason to deny membership in this case. 3. There is nothing defined in the By-Laws concerning “User Groups” as a prohibitive measure. 4. That, while there are some strong feelings surrounding ATVs within many of HRTA’s members, this does not constitute a reason to reject a membership application out of hand. Nor is it sufficient reason to conduct a discussion “in camera”. 5. There were potential benefits in having MR/BR as a member of HRTA: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. They can provide a unique perspective to HRTA deliberations that accounts for a significant group of trail users; b. The potential of having an ATV group that could educate and apply subtle pressure on errant ATV users; c. If the group is in HRTA, it will be easier and more direct to make observations on their work and ensure that multiple users can enjoy the Blueberry Run 	
	<p>Membership process – general. As far as can be determined there is no laid down procedure to process and assess an application other than having been “formally recognized by the Board of Directors of the HRTA” (By-Laws - definitions). However, there was sufficient precedent indicating that the accepted procedure was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A group makes a general application either in person or by email to join HRTA 2. The Group makes a presentation to the Board at a regular meeting. It appears that one or more Directors will provide some mentoring on what should be covered in the presentation. Past presentations included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A request to join HRTA; b. An explanation of how the Group has met or plans to meet the criteria in the By-Laws; c. An overview of their trails and the community it will serve; and d. A plan (at least conceptual) of what construction and other work they will do in the immediate future and in the long term. 3. From the record it appears that acceptance was usually an agreement by consensus. A formal motion may or may not have been used. 	

Item*	Record of decisions 24 May 2018	Action
	<p>Membership process for MR/BR. Considering the points above, the intention is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce a motion to accept the MR/BR as a member of HRTA at the meeting 9 July 2018. Michael McFadden and Anne Patrick have agreed to be mover and seconder. 2. Have Marine Riders make their presentation to include at least the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show how they are meeting the membership criteria specified in By-Law 6.1 b. Provide an overview of the Blueberry Run trail and its surrounding community; c. Short and long-term plans for the trail including maintenance, new construction or other items of interest that may use HRTA/HRM funding d. Directly address the concerns raised by other member groups about having an ATV user group becoming a community group member of HRTA. Many of these concerns will be collated from emails and other submissions including any of their public consultations for the trail 3. Allow Directors and Executive to express their views on the motion and to ask clarification questions of the Marine Riders/Blueberry Run representatives. 4. Call for a vote. 	
	<p>Decision: The Co-Chair will advise the MR/BR group of the agreed requirements and invite their representative to make a presentation to the Board of Directors' meeting 9 July 2018.</p>	
na	<p>Doug MacLeod's (AVT) email request. The executive felt that Doug's request needed to be split into two parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: "I would also like to request that any discussion on the membership of Marine Riders ATV Club - Blueberry Run be held without the presence of any representatives of the Marine Riders -Blueberry Run. 	
	<p>The executive does not agree with holding a discussion about a potential membership effectively "in camera" or excluding anyone from the room during that discussion. It was felt that such a move was not in keeping with a general desire by all to have an open, transparent and inclusive process for all HRTA affairs. It is acknowledged that in this case there is considerable "passion" on all sides of the issue. Although it may be uncomfortable, and the Chair of the meeting will have to exercise considerable wisdom in moderating the ensuing discussion, there is no "personnel" or other legal reason to exclude anyone.</p>	
	<p>Decision The discussion on the Marine Riders/Blueberry Run membership application will be held in open session.</p>	
18 – 006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2: The notice of motion that: "HRTA requests a staff report that examines the economic, trail user, community group, and environmental implications of including motorized use in HRM's support for trails. This report would include but not be limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the addition of an existing motorized trail • the addition of a motorized trail network in HRM • the addition of recreational motorized trails in HRM • the addition of motorized AT trails in HRM <p>We further request that staff seek council's direction on these matters "</p>	
	<p>The executive saw considerable merit in this request as HRTA has been in a sort of policy vacuum from the major funder – HRM on this issue. It appears that the only documented policy only partly dealing with trails allowing motorized recreational use has been the inclusion in previous Maintenance Funding agreements that:</p>	

Item*	Record of decisions 24 May 2018	Action
	<p>“Participants that maintain shared use trails that allow ATV use will be eligible for 50% HRM maintenance funding of their trails and 50% funding is required from another source or sources.”</p> <p>It should be noted that this caveat is not in the current version of the Maintenance or the Capital Funding Template.</p> <p>However, the executive felt that tying this motion to a deferral of considering the MR/BR application was not justified. If the motion passes, it is anticipated that the resulting study request which must wend its way into the HRM bureaucracy via the HRM AT Standing committee could take months. It was felt that the potential delay was not in anyone’s fair and best interests.</p>	
	<p>Decisions:</p> <p>1. That the proposed motion requesting a staff report be presented at the HRTA Board of Directors’ meeting 9 July 2018</p> <p>2. That the Co Chair (Paul Adlakha) brief Doug MacLeod on these decisions with the aim of getting his concurrence with the proposed splitting of actions.</p>	<p>Co-chair</p>
<p>Exec mtg June</p>	<p>There was a discussion on the executive meeting tentatively planned for 11 June. All present agreed that a face to face meeting to discuss the reporting and other implications of the (expected) new Capital and Maintenance Funding Contracts on members. There may be other issues that arise in the interim.</p> <p>The set date created some problems with several members so alternate dates were discussed. A number of locations were considered in the north end to accommodate members needs.</p>	
	<p>Decisions:</p> <p>1. that the Executive meeting will be held 7 June late afternoon/early evening.</p>	
	<p>2. The secretary will check into potential meeting spots to include (but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Offices (checking with Emma Martin) • Ecology Action Centre • Sobey’s Community room (corner of North and Windsor Street) 	

* From Board of Director listing if required