

**SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday September 23, 2020 10:00 a.m.
Sutherland Centre, Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chair
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
4. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2017 – **attached**
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes
 - a. Durham Upper Dam Walkway Gates – **Donna Lacey**
6. New Business
 - a. Terms of Reference – **Donna Lacey**
 - b. Status of Parks – **Donna Lacey**
7. Other Business
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

SAUGEEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Conservation through Cooperation

MEETING: Parks Committee
DATE: Tuesday September 19, 2017
TIME: 9:00am
LOCATION: Formosa Administration Building

CHAIR: Dan Gieruszak

MEMBERS PRESENT: Luke Charbonneau, Maureen Couture, Mark Davis

ABSENT: Andrew White

OTHERS PRESENT: Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Gary Senior, Sr. Manager,
Janice Hagan, Recording Secretary
Members of the Public

GM/S-T Wayne Brohman called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

1. Selection of Committee Chair

Luke Charbonneau nominated Dan Gieruszak for position of the Chair of the Parks Committee. No other nominations were received.

MOTION # PCK17-01

Moved by Luke Charbonneau

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT Dan Gieruszak be appointed to fill the position of Chair of the Parks Committee for the year 2017.

Carried

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION # PCK17-02

Moved by Maureen Couture

Seconded by Luke Charbonneau

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No persons declared a pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda.

4. Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting – July 23, 2015

MOTION # PCK17-03

Moved by Luke Charbonneau

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT the minutes of the Parks Committee meeting, July 23, 2015, be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None at this time.

6. New Business

- a. Hunting Policy at the Bluffs

Gary Senior briefed the committee on the history of hunting policies on SVCA property, specifically with regards to the Bluffs Campground. Hunting had been allowed at the north end of the Bluffs property until the Authority passed a motion August 23, 2016 to designate the entire region as a no hunting area. (See Motion #16-72). Gary has received negative feedback regarding this decision and recommends that the motion be reversed. He explained that horse trail usage is minimal between the months of November and March. As well, he has met with local horse clubs who have agreed that riding on the trails during that time may damage the trail system and is inadvisable. Gary told the committee that the safety risk would not be greater at the Bluffs property than at any other Conservation land where hunting is allowed. Upon further discussion the following motion was passed:

MOTION # PCK17-04

Moved by Luke Charbonneau

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT the Parks Committee recommends to the Full Authority that Authority Motion #G16-72, which established a 'No Hunting' designation for all of the Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, be rescinded; and further,

THAT the campground portion of the Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area continues to be designated as a no hunting area; and further,

THAT hunting is hereby permitted in the northerly portion of the property between November 1st and March 31st of each year; AND FURTHER,

THAT SVCA staff place appropriate signage on the property.

Carried

b. Durham Campground trailer break-ins

Gary Senior informed the Committee that trailer off-season break-ins at Durham Campground have been on the rise in the past year. The campground gate is closed during the off season but the park continues to be accessed in the winter. Staff have endeavored to address the issue by circulating information on risk management. West Grey Police have been informed and have agreed to increase patrols, including the use of ATV's and snow machines when staff are available. Signage will also be installed indicating video surveillance and a Crime Stoppers call number. Staff recommended that the walking gate at the dam be locked during the off season. This may lower the risk of criminal activity in the area; however it would also keep other individuals out who use it for physical activity and enjoyment. After discussion the recommended motion was tabled:

MOTION # PCK17-05

Moved by Luke Charbonneau

Seconded by Maureen Couture

THAT the following motion be tabled until September 2018:

THAT the Parks Committee recommends to the Full Authority that the Durham Upper Dam (McGowan Falls Dam) walkway gates be closed and locked between October 11th and May 1st of each year to prevent public access to the Durham Conservation Area by that route; and further,

THAT Authority staff place appropriate signage at the dam.

Carried

c. Bluffs horse trail linkage to Port Elgin

Gary told the committee that there had been requests to connect the Bluffs horse trails with municipal trails to allow for campers to ride to Port Elgin using the existing Rail Trail. There are, however, structural issues with the east side of the bridge as there are no shoulders and would require changes to accommodate horses. Options discussed include a flashing light system, and re-routing the trail system to go under the east end of the bridge which would depend on water levels. As well, staff have approached a local landowner close to Port Elgin to discuss options for allowing horse tie-ups and a water trough. The Chair told staff that there would need to be discussions with Bruce County, Saugeen Shores, and Arran-Elderslie to address the issues.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:57am upon declaration of Chair Dan Gieruszak.

Dan Gieruszak
Chair

Janice Hagan
Recording Secretary