



Committee of the Whole Excerpts
May 14, 2024

BAY OF FUNDY ADVENTURE TRAIL REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT EXCERPT

The West Hants Trails Associations have been developing a trail strategy and a detailed Trail plan for West Hants. With awareness that the Bay of Fundy is recognized as one of the Natural Wonders of the World, having the highest tides in the world; the vision is to create a world class multi use trail system that promotes West Hants as one of these Natural Wonders of the World and includes upgrading 10 existing trails and infrastructure, along with the development of new sections of the trail.

The key to creating this project is developing a network of support and partnerships that will be essential to the long-term sustainability of this wonder of the World Trail system. A letter of support for this project will assist as the group looks for grants and other funding opportunities.

The recommended motion was that Committee of the Whole recommend that ...

COUNCIL DIRECTS STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE WEST HANTS TRAILS ASSOCIATION FOR THE BAY OF FUNDY ADVENTURE TRAIL PROJECT.

The Bay of Fundy Adventure Trail System

The West Hants Trails Associations Purpose is to develop and maintain trails for the residents and visitors of West Hants to enjoy. For the past three years we have been developing a trail strategy and a detailed Trail plan for West Hants.

We began this process by zooming out to look at the bigger picture and we asked what West Hants is known for on a global scale? What do we have that would attract people on an international scale? We found that the Bay of Fundy is recognized as one of the Natural Wonders of the World. With the highest tides in the world, more water entering the bay everyday than the total of all the rivers in the world combined.

Zooming back in there are 5 Natural Wonders in the United States and 2 in Canada. One is Niagara Falls; the other is the Bay of Fundy. That is US!! We need to capitalize on this Natural Wonder of the world.

Our vision is to create a world class multi use trail systems that promotes West Hants as one of these Natural Wonders of the World. A trail system of this magnitude will be on the bucket list of outdoor enthusiasts both locally and on an international scale.

This Bay of Fundy Adventure Trail system will follow the ancient water route of the Mi'kmaq, is 200 kilometers in length, will connect 10 existing trails and will pass through 37 communities in West Hants from Walton to Windsor to Castle Frederick to Hantsport. This multi-use system can be experienced by exploring the trails on foot, biking the existing blue route, traveling the ancient water route by kayak, canoe, motorboat or even by air.

To be recognized as a world class trail certain criteria must be met. 1. Significant destination. 2. Recognizing indigenous people. 3. Length of trail (30km plus). 4. Diversity. 5 breathtaking views. 6. Conservation and protection. 7. Quality natural experience. 8. Significant Geological features. 9. Amenities. 10. Attractions. We checked off all the boxes. A trail of this magnitude will bring many social and economic benefits to our region. Studies have Showen that Trail tourism has increased revenue to local businesses by 6 to 20%.

The Bay of Fundy Adventure trail system has something for everyone of all ages and all abilities. Some of the points of interest on the trail are. Back country hiking and overnight stay in a wilderness cabin. Interacting with an active farming and forestry operation at the Castle Frederick Farm. The challenge of climbing the iconic Moses Mountain and breathtaking views from the mountain side and from the ocean. Experiencing the world's highest tides firsthand. Dining on the ocean floor. 5K hike on the mud flat and returning before 150 ft of water returned to the spot where you were standing. Visit Waterfalls,

caves, natural arches in the cliffs, Flowerpot rocks, long walks on the beach, hike the old railway line, See the dinosaur tracks and fossils, fish for striped bass and flounder, pick dulse, see the Reversing Rivers and the Tidal Bore. Ride the tidal bore in a kayak or canoe. Travel the ancient water route of the Mi'kmaq. Witness the largest flight of migratory shore birds in the world as they feed on the globally protected Ramsar site. Beach combing, horseback riding, ATV, tubing, mud sliding and much, much more.

It is impossible to explain a trail of this magnitude on paper and to do it justice, one must experience it first-hand.

Our detailed plan for development will include upgrades to 10 existing trails and infrastructure, along with the development of new sections of the trail. A trail of this length along the coast requires access points and hubs at focal points to ensure safety and enhance visitor experience. These hubs will be located at Windsor, Moses Mountain/Mi'kmaq village, Castle Frederick Farm, Brooklyn, Avondale, Summerville, Cheverie, Bramber and Walton.

We have been developing a network of support and partnerships that will be essential to the long-term sustainability of this wonder of the World Trail system and the West Hants Trails Association is especially proud to be able to be part of this positive step in improving our region. As we move forward applying for grants to assist with funding, it makes it easier with letters of support, and we respectfully ask the Regional Municipality of West Hants for their endorsement of this World Class Bay of Fundy Adventure trail system by writing a letter of support for this project.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

Art Crowell,

President of the West Hants Trails Association.