

**Trails Committee – January 10, 2018**  
**Shady Nook Recreation Centre**

**Attendance:** Carl Larocque (Trail Maintenance Director), Teresa Gamble (A/Trails Development), Barry Biernaskie, Dave Lehtinen, Hannah Blaedow, Andrew Randall, Dwight Panke, Mark Johnson, Steve Hebb (VP), Rob Kilby (Greater Madawaska), Dave MacIntosh (Pet/Laurentian Valley), Greg Tatton (Renfrew), Wendy Biernaskie (Events Dir)

**A. TRAIL NAMING**

Issues:

1. a number of new trails require numbering
2. existing trails are named essentially based on OFSC trails
3. a number of trails share the same name which causes confusion
4. riders have no way of knowing the technicality of a trail before they begin a trip
5. as new trails are added, there needs to be a way to add in new numbers
6. a way to differentiate trails from connecting roads
7. trails are too long and it is a barrier to safety response

Suggestions:

- A. break trails into smaller segments so that new riders and visitors can navigate better
- B. a trail numbering system with a sequence. ie
  - 10-40 for beginner trails (Green) including roads
  - 41 – 80 for intermediate trails (blue)
  - 81-100 for advanced trails (red)
  - 101-120 for expert trails (black)
- C. trail number sequence have to allow for growth
- D. use a C following the numbers for connecting roads behind the number so that individuals know they are roads and must follow MTO legislation

Considerations:

1. It will cost a fair amount to redo all of the signage.
2. EOTA needs the map to be sent to them ASAP (we are already late on it). The map will be for approximately 2 years.
3. Do we need to do the entire trail system now, or do we do the new trails or new system this year, and wait another two years to move the rest of the trails.

**B. TRAIL DEVELOPMENT**

New Trails/Connecting Roads:

1. **Pembroke:** new bylaw explained.

Future action: 2 trailheads to be built, follow road to trail signage

2. **North Algona Wilberforce:** new extension to existing 142 to reconnect the 142 back to Golden Lake via unmaintained routes.

Future actions: new trails signed and brushed, trailhead at Sands

3. **Bonnechere Valley:** new connecting trails between 102 railbed and Griffith, Greater Madawaska and K&P trails east and west sides of Bonnechere Valley, and new trails through Eganville to connect to OVRT.

Future action: signing, brushing, trailhead boards

4. **Killaloe, Haggarty Richards:** new trails to deviate off Mountainview Road and position for use of County Forestry.

Future action: review water crossing at Stack Road, signing, brushing, trailhead board Killaloe.

5. **Greater Madawaska:** new trails to connect OVATVC to RCATV at Matawachan and Hydro Dam Road, and connect Greater Madawaska trails to Bonnechere Valley trails.

Future action: signage, trailhead boards

## C. DECISIONS

1. Proceed with naming trails in the following:

- in sequential order where possible.
- leave empty sequential numbers for future trails in an area.
- include an R at the end of the trail for segments that are on a road
- try to keep consistent numbers within trail systems

2. Following trails not to be renumbered:

- Main trunks that are straight runs (ie. B Trail CN)

3. Trail renumbering in this order:

- new trails
- existing trails that are not well known, are being significantly changed
- trails that have duplicate numbers across the region
- trails where there are few to no trail signs in stock

4. Trail technicality rating:

- trails will be designated by colour on the map (Green- beginner/roads, Blue- intermediate, Red-advanced rider, Black- expert rider) according to draft technicality rating
- trail signs will include a colour marker (circle/square/round/diamond) at entrances to trail to identify technicality on the trail
- where trails change technicality rating, try to renumber the trail into segments or designate the whole trail with the highest technicality. For exceptionally long trails that cannot be renumbered, the map and signs should note the change in technicality rating

5. Maps:

- trails are due to EOTA Map the 10-11 of Jan. They don't need the technicality ratings but do need to be numbered.

6. Signage:

- we need to revisit what the signs will look like on the trails. Current signs are not visible in wooded areas.
- **DEFERRED** - discussion to future meeting

7. Trail Standard:

- committee would like to establish a standard for trail maintenance on main trails and side trails.
- **DEFERRED** - discussion to the next meeting

8. Trail Maintenance:

- committee suggests scheduled trail maintenance days in the spring that can rotate as larger groups throughout the county to help get the maintenance and signage done fast and more effective. Also enables riders to become familiar with new areas.
- **DEFERRED** – committee to prioritize spring/summer maintenance and annual maintenance priorities
- Trail volunteer list is available from Volunteer/Membership Director Amy Chapman.

9. Trail Rides:

- recommendation to encourage greater number of informal, single day rides as Directors can showcase their trails and area and familiarize riders on new trails and trail systems

#### **D. ACTIONS**

1. Teresa will do the trail numbering and submit to EOTA based on the discussion and recommendations.
2. Teresa will draft the technicality rating and share the draft map with the trails committee
3. Carl will work with the Directors to plan trail maintenance dates well in advance and get them published with support from Events Coordinator
4. Directors consult with the Events Coordinator to avoid duplicating dates. send in their dates to Facebook team for showcase or familiarity rides.