

Report TR-TAPS-71-14

To: Chair Barfoot and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee
From: M.J. Kelly, Director of Transportation Services
Meeting Date: October 23, 2014
Subject: Snowmobile Access – Durham Patrol facility
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution TAPS118-14; Endorsed by County Council November 4, 2014 per Resolution CC151-14;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS the Durham and District Trail Blazers snowmobile association has requested permission from Grey County to utilize its Transportation Services Durham patrol yard as a trail.

AND WHEREAS Grey County wishes to promote tourism within Grey County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-71-14 regarding the use of Grey County Transportation Services Durham patrol yard by the Durham and District Trail Blazers for the use of a snowmobile trail be received;

AND THAT Grey County staff are hereby authorized to negotiate an agreement with the Durham and District Trail Blazers Snowmobile Association to use a ten metre corridor for the use of a snowmobile trail provided it assumes all responsibility and costs associated with this initiative.

Background

The Durham and District Trail Blazers snowmobile organization has requested permission to have a snowmobile trail placed through the Grey County Transportation Services patrol yard in Durham to enable members to access the Durham Tim Horton's.

Previously the Durham and District Trail Blazers had access to the Durham Tim Horton's via the Seeley and Arnill gravel pit east of the community of Durham. The permission to use this property was revoked in the spring of 2014.

The Durham and District Trail Blazers has an approved route to South Street East, Durham, adjacent to the North Wellington Co-op Gas Station and the entrance to the Durham patrol yard.

The Durham patrol is no longer actively used and has a perimeter farm fence.

The Durham patrol yard contains contours and ramps that would not be conducive to safe snowmobiling.

For safety and liability reasons it is not ideal to permit the members complete access to the entire yard.

To ensure members are restricted to a trail, it is recommended that permission be granted for a ten meter wide corridor on the property adjacent to the west limits of the property. The Durham and District Trail Blazers would be required to install a farm fence along the ten meter corridor, at its expense to restrict the member's activities. Gates on both ends of the farm fenced corridor would be required to restrict access to the property during other times on the year.

An agreement would be required between the Durham and District Trail Blazers and Grey County identifying that the Durham and District Trail Blazers would assume all expenses and responsibilities.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

Grey County would consider allowing the Durham and District Trail Blazers to use a ten meter corridor on the west side of the property provided that it enters into an agreement with Grey County to ensure it assumes all related expenses and risks.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

This initiative would correspond to Corporate Strategic Plan 3.7- Continue to implement the Grey County Recreational Trail Strategy and seek opportunities to work with others to expand the countywide trails network.

Respectfully submitted by,

M.J. Kelly
Director of Transportation Services