

MINUTES

APRIL 23RD, 2014

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A special meeting of the Grand Falls Municipal Council was held in the Council Room at the Grand Falls Town Hall at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 23rd, 2014, following the notices required by the Act.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

Jacques Lafrance
Harry MacPhail
Arthelin Rossignol
Michel Ouellette

Rino Long
John Bellefleur
Jean-Paul Proulx
Renaud Ouellette

As well as the CAO-Clerk, Peter Michaud, and the Deputy Clerk, Lise J. Ouellette.

PURPOSE

The objective for this meeting is to receive the Mad-Vic ATV Club's request to cross the NB Trail Bridge.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keeley welcomes everyone and explains how the meeting will proceed.

DISCUSSION

Presentation by the Mad-Vic ATV Club and support

Germain Pinette, Board member, presents the club's request to Council. The Club requests permission to share the bridge with pedestrians and cyclists.

Further requests will need to be addressed concerning access to the bridge and the ATV trail extension, if access to the bridge is granted.

It is noted that the Club has no intention to use the NB Trail other than the bridge.

Daniel Boucher, representing the Federation, Eric Ouellette from the TAC and Luc Thériault from the Chamber of Commerce speak in support of the project. They stress the positive economic and tourism impact this would have for the Town.

Others who support the request:

Samuel Leblond, Line Lavoie, Marcel Lavoie, Gilles Tardif, Don Bouchard and Gino Mazerolle.

Supporters mention the following:

- that irresponsible people are part of every kind of activity;
- their desire to see the ATV trail system developed in Grand Falls and their support in general;
- growth of the economy;
- each person should help control irresponsible users;
- would encourage people to stay in the region instead of going out of town to practice the sport;
- conditions would be added to agreements with the Province to protect citizens;
- the irresponsible use of the trail will diminish when a better circuit is developed.

Opposition

The following citizens express their opposition to the project:

Gracien Rioux, Camilla Leclerc, Lionel Arsenault, Poul Jorgensen, Béatrice Long.

Opposers mention the following:

- the bad experiences of people living near the walking / biking trail caused by irresponsible ATV owners already using the trail illegally;
- development possibilities for eco-tourism such as cycling;
- request details on how pedestrians and cyclists using the trail will be protected;
- emphasize the benefits of a nature trail in town;
- NB Trail does not approve of ATV's on the trail;
- request a guaranty that it will be safe.

Poul Jorgensen of NB Trail requests a copy of the Federation's presentation. NB Trail will prepare a document for Council as soon as possible presenting their position on the matter

Others

A suggestion is made to divide the bridge, possibly fencing off the portion that would be used by ATV's.

CONCLUSION

Mayor Keeley thanks everyone for their participation. He mentions that this is the first of many discussions concerning the ATV circuit. He encourages citizens to talk to their councillors about their concerns.

Mayor Keeley also asks Mr. Boucher to send him any documentation he may have on the decrease of irresponsible users on the trail.

ADJOURNEMENT

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley,
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette,
Deputy-Clerk