



**Minutes**  
**The Township of Cavan Monaghan**  
**Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, October 25, 2021**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Those members in attendance:**

Robert Jackson                      Chair  
Alex Bushell                        Vice Chair  
David D'Agostino  
Matthew Graham  
John Frizzle  
Meredith Carter, ORCA  
John Fallis  
Maureen McDonald

**Those members absent:**

Hillary Bradshaw  
Yvette Hurley                      Chief Administrative Officer

**Those members in attendance:**

Cindy Page                         Clerk  
Karlie Cornish-Tkalec          Deputy Clerk/Corporate Services Administrator  
Melissa Als                         Recreation Coordinator

**1. Open Session**

**2. Call to Order**

Chair Robert Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Fallis

Seconded by: McDonald

That the agenda for the Millbrook Valley Trails meeting held October 25, 2021 be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **3.1 Resignation – Christine Ball**

Moved by: Frizzle

Seconded by: D'Agostino

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee accept the letter of resignation from Christine Ball and request Staff to send a letter of thanks and proceed with moving forward with filling the vacancy.

**Carried**

## **4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

There were no pecuniary interests noted.

## **5. Closed Session**

There were no closed session items.

## **6. Minutes**

### **6.1 Minutes of the meeting held September 27, 2021**

Moved by: D'Agostino

Seconded by: McDonald

That the minutes for the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee meeting held September 27, 2021 be approved as amended.

**Carried**

## **7. Reports**

### **7.1 Financial Report – Melissa Als**

Melissa Als noted there was one invoice received for \$1800.00 from the Friends of Hope Mill for lumber. Chair Jackson noted there will be invoices coming for the materials for the retaining wall and work day materials from Merrett Home Hardware. The remaining budget is \$1600.00.

### **7.2 ORCA Update – Meredith Carter**

Meredith Carter advised that ORCA has a flood watch in effect until November 1, 2021. Ms. Carter noted that the Kiosk has been installed at the Needlers Mill and thanked the members of the Committee and Friends of the Mill for the great partnership project.

Maureen McDonald noted that all of the trees and saplings purchased from ORCA were planted and doing well except for six (6) cedar ones planted at Station Trail noting an alternate tree type that should be planted

next year that could live in this location. Meredith Carter suggested Dogwood might be a good alternative and would help stabilize the soil, Ms. Carter will have a look next time she is in the area.

### **7.3 Trail Report – John Fallis and Maureen McDonald**

#### **John Fallis**

Ganny Transit:

The trail is dry and clear of obstructions with the exception of the normally wet areas. The recent rains have expanded the traditional wet areas a little, but not to the point of creating large slippery areas or mud that can't be avoided. The boardwalk on the west side of the Transit Bridge is a little off kilter, but not to the point of danger. It may be slippery when wet but was fine when I was on it. The muddy areas could be fixed with a few more flat stones if deemed necessary. There were no doggy bags or maps at the Fire Route 310 access points.

The trees that were stripped by the LDD moths seem to have produced some new leaves but the wooded areas still seem brighter than usual and perhaps there is more greenery at ground level than usual.

Deyell Detour:

The trail is similar to Ganny Transit. The paths are in good shape except for small damp areas at the ends of boardwalk or flagstone paths. Dave commented that the Deyell bridge can be slippery when wet. Perhaps shingles could be applied or other experiments carried out.

Meadow Trail was dry and clear as far as Backstage Pass. Depending on preferences, open trails vs narrow paths, some branches could be trimmed back to open it up. There are areas on slopes where I wonder if we should create a second path beside the existing path to let the current path become a ditch which could grow some cover and erode less. I believe there is an example of this situation at the north end of Cedar Trail.

Backstage Pass was in good shape.

The Railbed was clear from the east end to the access point for Grand Trunk Pathway

Grand Trunk Pathway:

This Trail was wetter than I have seen it since before we added the wooden path west of the ponds. I was on the northwest section. There is one wet patch just before the user arrives at the railway bridge from the south. That spot is not too significant; but there are two patches between the rail bridge and the boardwalk. These were big enough that they were unavoidable and muddy. These sections would require ten to fifteen

metres each of boardwalk or flagstone. The wet patches may be temporary but with a wet fall and winter, they could be there until next summer. It has become quite muddy in the short section between the two ponds.

#### Baxter Creek:

The trail from the MNR pond to about the access to Theatre Trail is also much wetter than usual. Nearly all the boardwalks have muddy sections at either end. As well there are sections where the turf has given way and mud has leaked up through it. There is one broken eight foot board, and one that needs to be re-nailed on the section between Zion and the first stand of spruce on the MNR property. A new map holder is needed on the north side of Zion Line. The path north of Theatre was, drier than I expected. Perhaps the beaver dam washed away with the big rainstorm. The "Lost Trail" seems to be used enough that I may have to propose another name change. There is one dead fallen tree that should be moved but it is not causing a problem to traffic.

The trail from the bridge to the Fairgrounds is dry and clear. The steps are losing their shape as the wood is no longer holding together as built. Perhaps the gravel could be set aside, the steps reset and then the gravel be put back in place.

#### Theatre Trail:

There is a low hanging branch that needs to be cut at the west access point. I didn't walk the trail, but assume it is about the same as last June's report only wetter.

June report: "Some work is needed on the boardwalk if it is to be kept open this year. It appears a horse walked through when the ground was wet."

#### Station Trail:

The trail was clear and dry. A cyclist mentioned a hanging branch and vines that I removed with snippers.

### **Maureen McDonald**

#### Old School Entrance:

We still need a more formal large sign and map at the main entrance to the trails by the community garden and orchard.

#### Medd Mountain Trail:

In generally good shape throughout. Lower portion of seeded area over the diverted spring on the field could use some more topsoil and seed next year. Fence at Lookout needs more substantive repair. The root staircase was and is very wet and mucky this year, especially at the

bottom. Perhaps some flagstone at the bottom and an effort to find the source of water and divert it with O ring would be helpful.

The fort that was in the creek-side cedars by the second boardwalk has been removed but a firepit remains and should be filled in. Successful Oct 24 workday boardwalk repairs have occurred on the sunken section of the S boardwalk and on the first corner bridge on Baxter Creek. There are 3-5 boards on the second bridge at Baxter Creek that will likely need replacement soon. The suggested pamphlet and poopbag dispensers at the trailhead are now in place.

#### Baxter Creek Trail:

Still formally marked as closed due to beaver activity. I have not walked the full length this month. The long boardwalk and floating bridge have continued to deteriorate without repair throughout Covid and two winter and wet seasons. A committee walkthrough of this area this fall might be in order to plan repairs, approach to beavers and re-establish continuity next summer.

Cedar Trail: In generally good shape throughout. The slope down to the bridge over the creek has been especially wet this year due to compaction and saturation and a little flagstone on the east side of the bridge might help.

The Railbed north of the Grand Trunk entrance has had a successful Oct 24 workday repair of the gouged and gulley-washed area overlying the Old Railbridge.

#### Grand Trunk: In good shape throughout

John Fallis has already mentioned the sometimes deeply mucky stretches between and beyond the narrow raised boardwalks approaching the Old Railbridge from the 2<sup>nd</sup> trout pond and the mucky stretch between the trout ponds.

Many very appreciative hikers and mountain bike users from far flung places in Ontario, out of province, and now out of country, as Covid phases have allowed, were encountered on the trail this month and throughout the summer season.

Season on season we find the trail users are complying more and more with carrying their trash and recyclables out or using the receptacles provided.

N.B. The fishing/viewing platform ramp at the MNR trout ponds still needs to be built up to the threshold of the platform to provide easy wheelchair and scooter access.

Maureen McDonald noted that due to the gypsy moths the canopy has opened up and we are now seeing black poplar leaves and mullein rosettes but the positive is that there are a lot oak seedlings growing. Ms. McDonald noted there is still the need for a sign at the Trail Head entrance at the Old Millbrook School.

The Committee shared photos from Work Day on October 24<sup>th</sup> and discussed the success of the work completed and the need for signage to advise trail users that repairs are occurring. Additional advertising of Work Day next year would be beneficial to allow for more volunteers to participate.

Moved by: Jackson

Seconded by: Fallis

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee support the upset limit of \$200 to purchase four to six signs reading "Caution Trail Repairs in Progress".

**Carried**

## **8. General Business**

### **8.1 Fair Ground Entrance**

John Frizzle spoke to how different parts of the trails are appealing at different times of the year to a variety of users. Mr. Frizzle noted the need to explore an alternative entrance from the Fairgrounds to access the Baxter Creek Trail for the winter months that is not a slop entrance by exploring options for consideration and property ownership. The Committee discussed the various aspects and the creation of a potential loop with the alternative entrance.

Moved by: Frizzle

Seconded by: D'Agostino

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee support formally exploring an alternative entrance from the Fairgrounds into the Baxter Creek trail system, given that the current entrance is on a slop and add this exploratory item to the Workplan.

**Carried**

### **8.2 Millbrook Valley Trails Brochure**

The Committee reviewed the brochure and the items that require clarification including routes that bicycles are not permitted on and need to confirm the kilometers identified for each trail route.

Moved by: Jackson

Seconded by: D'Agostino

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee support the revised verbiage on the brochure and to include a version date:

Bicycles are not permitted on Medds Mountain Trail.

Bicycles are not permitted on the Baxter Creek Trail, except for south of the Fairground entrance. Please obey all signage.

**Carried**

Moved by: Frizzle

Seconded by: D'Agostino

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee support the upset limit of \$400 to purchase revised brochures.

**Carried**

Moved by: Fallis

Seconded by: Frizzle

That John Fallis work with staff to investigate property ownership and explore the option of extending Glamorgan to the Deyell Road Allowance and add this to the Workplan.

**Carried**

### **8.3 Workplan 2021**

The Committee reviewed the Workplan and supported the concept of creating a workflow and an ongoing list of repairs and maintenance that are needed on the trails. This will provide a framework for the Trails Master Plan moving forward and allocating resources and priorities for projects John Frizzle, Matthew Graham and Chair Jackson will work with Staff in preparation for the January meeting.

### **8.4 2022 Budget Discussion**

The Committee discussed budget considerations for 2022 and the Barron Cowan Foundation reserve of \$16,219.00.

Moved by: Jackson

Seconded by: Frizzle

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee request \$4800 for Materials and Supplies and \$1500 for Contracted Services as the 2022 Budget request.

**Carried**

### **8.5 Items for next meeting**

- Millbrook Mountain Bike Club Update
- Updated Brochure

## **9. Adjournment**

Moved by: Fallis

Seconded by: D'Agostino

That the Millbrook Valley Trails Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

**Carried**

### **9.1 Next meeting November 22, 2021**

9.1.1 Trail Report – Robert Jackson and John Frizzle

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**Robert Jackson**  
**Chair**

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**Cindy Page**  
**Clerk**