

Mountain Bike Halifax Association

Meeting Minutes - 23 Jan 2018

Attendance:

- Charles Sutton - Chair
- Mark Gentile
- Bruce Lusby
- Jeff White
- Stephen Pelham
- Dan Flinn
- Jeff Vienneau - Minutes
- Adam Shore
- Tim Foster
- Marc Pike

Regrets:

None.

Items Discussed:

1 - Attendance taken.

2 - Review of MBH activity including recent meeting with HRM.

HRM meeting summary:

For everyone's information, here is the latest presentation's [deck link](#) as well as the [talking points](#) and [MRWA's project proposal](#) (that we wish to help fund) to further trail development. It is important that everyone understands that our ask is for the continuation of the MRWA project.

In attendance were:

MBH - MarcP, MarkG, JeffW, Chuck

Philip Hammond - Recreation Planning Specialist, Parks and Rec

Richard Harvey - Manager of Policy and Planning, Parks and Rec

Ray Walsh - Parks Manager - Parks and Rec

Jeff Spares - Construction Project Manager, Parks and Rec

Tony Mancini - Councillor District 6

Lawrence Plug - MRWA Representative

There were two other individuals present from HRM Transportation but I don't have a record of their names and can't recall.

The staff were enthusiastic about our presentation and were complimentary of our comprehensive work in building our plan. It was indicated that this is coming at the 'right time' with the recent motion being passed by council. All were in favour of moving forward in working with MBH.

Philip Hammond has been working on the staff report on developing a regional mountain bike strategy requested by council. He will be our contact with HRM and will be looking to MBH for resources/input on building a regional mountain bike strategy.

Out of the meeting came the following action items:

- Mark Gentile will be MBH's contact person for HRM.
- Philip Hammond will be HRM's contact person for MBH.
- MBH to forward the presentation deck and talking points to Philip Hammond.
- MBH to compile resources helpful in the development of a regional mountain bike strategy and forward to Philip Hammond.
- Philip Hammond to reach out to MBH for further information/resources as needed in building his report to council.
- Richard Harvey to look into funding options (with no promises) and get back to MBH.
- MBH to begin compiling any available data for analytics regarding trail use.

Tim Foster to reconnect with Strava to see about having access to trail user numbers.

3 - The use of consistent language around our name, Mountain Bike Halifax vs. Mountain Bike Halifax Association and the acronym MBH was proposed by Chuck S as was language around mountain bike trails and infrastructure. There was general agreement among group that we need to use consistent language in educating others about who we are and about mountain bike trails in general.

Some terminology was offered by example: "Skills Park" vs. "Bike Park" and "Recreational Mountain Bike Trails".

4 - Potential fallback board nominations were discussed. Many in the group offered to be backup nominees if no nominations came from the membership at the AGM.

The need for female representation on the board was discussed with at least one candidate to pursue.

5 - Membership: fees, what members receive for their fees, etc.

It was agreed that members are joining to support mountain bike trail development in HRM and their membership can be thought of as a donation with no need for the association to offer anything more at this early stage in the association's development..

It was suggested that some token be given with membership for members to show they support the association. Suggestions: MBH stickers, bike tags, stem top caps. **Tim Foster to look into the potential for producing these kinds of items.**

In the course of the conversation different strategies for providing insurance were discussed but deemed not worth pursuing in the near term.

6 - An HRM Meeting is being planned for February.

It was agreed that at least two from the original HRM meeting be present for continuity. **Mark G to contact HRM to enquire what we need to bring to the meeting. The HRM Committee**

consisting of Mark G, Marc P, Jeff W and Chuck S will arrange to meet and discuss the strategy.

7 - Funding: municipal, provincial, federal, corporate, sponsorship ideas

MRWA's draft sponsorship plan was shown to the group and discussed.

Chuck briefed the group on a recent meeting with Kent Walsh / MEC regarding grant funding and potential partnership. Ongoing discussions as to what that partnership will look like. MEC will be asking for publicity commitments. **As the grant application is due in March, Chuck will continue with this application.**

The group discussed coordinating with MRWA to ensure we are not double soliciting potential sponsors. It was agreed that the association needs to keep some records of potential sponsors.

The group discussed a number of offers that are in the works.

There was some discussion of getting a bank account and preparing a letter we can provide to sponsors for their books.

It was decided that the organization will wait for the March AGM before getting a bank account so that the longer term board members can take on the signing authority. At that time, a fund raising committee would be established to attend to funding tasks.

Marc P to contact MRWA representatives to coordinate funding efforts.

8 - Chuck briefed the group on MRWA latest public meeting.

MRWA is pursuing IMBA membership with a goal of bringing the IMBA Trail Crew for trail building workshops.

9 - Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) potential membership was discussed. It was decided that MBH would wait to see how recent talks regarding the funding of recreational trails (as opposed to Active Transportation (AT) Trails) play out.

10 - NS Trails Federation - charitable status and potential membership discussed. No action to be taken at this time but revisiting joining NS Trails Federation could happen following the AGM. The benefit would be that money could be directed to MBH through NS Trails with the benefit of having donors receive charitable tax benefits.

11 - The HRM Shape Your City online tool for proposing budget priorities was offered as a potential way to put the need for mountain bike trails on the radar for HRM. **All members in attendance to visit shapeyourcityhalifax.ca to voice their say in the budget allocating more dollars to Parks, Trails and Green Space. Chuck to draft a letter to be posted on Facebook and sent to our mailing list encouraging members to visit the site and express the need for budget to Parks, Trails and Green Space.**

12 - BNS and Waverly Amature Athletic Association are at work on trail system project at McDonald Sports Park. Trailflow was contracted to do the work in two phases.

13 - AGM: discussed date, location

Initially, it was proposed that more time to prep was better and so April might be an option.

It was finally agreed that AGM before end of March was preferable to align with government budget year end so the new board can proceed with opportunities in hand.

It mentioned that there was a request for a meeting in Dartmouth by one individual. The suggestion was discussed and the group decided to pursue a more central location such as the Halifax Library.

Chuck S to begin work on agenda. Date as yet to be determined.

14 - Adjourn

Action Items in Summary:

- **Tim Foster to reconnect with Strava re. gaining access to tracked numbers of trail users.**
- **Tim Foster to look into the generation of a token (sticker/stem top cap/bike tags) to be given to members at the AGM.**
- **Mark G to contact HRM to enquire about what we should bring to the meeting**
- **HRM Committee to meet prior to February meeting to discuss mountain bike strategy. Chuck to coordinate.**
- **Chuck to continue with MEC grant application.**
- **Marc P to contact MRWA to share our funding aspirations and coordinate funding efforts.**
- **All to visit shapeyourcityhalifax.ca to request budget funding allocated toward Parks, Trails and Green Space**
- **Mark G and Chuck to draft and send out notice to membership re. Filling out shapeyourcityhalifax.ca to allocate funds to Parks, Trails and Green Space**
- **Chuck to begin work on AGM agenda.**