



Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula Council Report

Report Number: CAO 21-31

Subject: Cabot Head Trail Presentation

From: Peggy Van Mierlo-West, CAO

Date: August 9th, 2021

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives the report titled Cabot Head Trail Presentation;

That Council provide direction to Administration regarding next steps.

Background:

The Cabot Head Lighthouse has been closed since 2017 due to remediation work carried out on site. Since then, the site has received little maintenance. Council attended the site in 2019 to familiarize themselves with the property and gain an understanding of Friends of Cabot Head's (FOCH) concerns.

Issues that faced the Cabot Head Lighthouse include:

- lease renewal with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO);
- sublease consideration with FOCH;
- road damage to Cabot Head Road; and
- traffic concerns of Dyers Bay residents.

The DFO lease agreement expired April 30th, 2020 and it was not renewed.

At the September 2nd, 2020 Council approved the following;

THAT, Council receives report titled Trillium Grant Application – Cabot Head Road Lighthouse, AND;

THAT, Council supports in principle the collaborative submission of an Ontario Trillium Fund application submitted by the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, Friends of Cabot Head Lighthouse and Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association pending conversations and further information being brought back to Council.

December 2020, the group received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant for \$124,000 to develop this project. This amount included all public consultation, design and construction of the trail.

At the July 12th, 2021 Council meeting, members of the Cabot Head Trail Committee presented to Council their proposed project for the redevelopment of the trail. The overall scope of the project is to convert the road into a wilderness trail for cycling and hiking and to create a self-sustaining recreational asset for Northern Bruce Peninsula and enable mission critical support and site access to sustain the three charities.

The attached presentation and white paper from July 12th, 2021 are included for Council's review.

Comments:

The Management Team did meet with the group to discuss the project prior to the presentation to Council and expressed concern regarding items such as; maintenance, allocation of staff resources, monitoring, finances etc. During this meeting there were comments that the Municipality would take on a larger role of maintenance and monitoring once the project was complete.

As part of the presentation the group had the following requests.

Design: The group has requested that the Public Works Manager be part of the design portion of the project. Administration did request at the previous meeting that the management team would review the proposed plan however a professional engineer should complete this design. As stated, these works are not on municipal lands hence it would be the land owners who would be required to comment and provide approval.

Financials: The group requested assistance with the development of a financial plan for this project. The Municipality would be able to assist with the development of this plan however administration does believe that the operation and maintenance of this project should not rely on taxation. There has been an informal request from the group for the cost sharing of the revenue of the Dyer's Bay Parking Lot.

Risk Management: There are five steps in the development of a risk management plan.

These include;

- Identify potential risks;
- Measure frequency and severity;
- Examine alternative solutions;
- Implement Solution;
- Monitor results.

Administration is able to provide comments surrounding the program however it would be of benefit to the group to receive comments from a certified risk management professional.

The group has requested that staff attend meetings which occur on a weekly basis at 4:30pm. It is anticipated that the group will report back to Council in late summer. Administration is requesting direction prior to attending these meeting.

Over the next few weeks the group is requesting the following of staff in anticipation to have a report back to Council in September;

- Review of the RFP for the engineering study to make sure the scope sufficiently covers MNBPs typical requirements
- Review of the proposed public consultation approach to make sure it's adequate for the Municipality
- Participation in 2 working sessions to discuss potential long-term financial and governance options for the trail

Municipal Strategic Commitment:

Well managed and fiscally responsible municipal government is enhanced

Budget Implications:

Currently there is no budget implication with this project however should council approve funding or transferring of funds from parking revenue this will be an overall decrease to the municipal budget.

Attachments:

1. Cabot Head Trail Project Introduction
2. Cabot Head Proposal

Respectfully submitted:

Peggy Van Mierlo-West

Peggy Van Mierlo-West,
Chief Administrative Officer