



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Zach Prince, Senior Planner
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021
Subject: Kissing Bridge Trailway - Advisory Board Terms of Reference Amendments

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to obtain County Council support for proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Kissing Bridge Trailway Advisory Board.

Background:

The Kissing Bridge Trailway is a multi-use recreational trail extending 44.5 kilometres from Wellington Road 39 across the northern part of Waterloo Region to Millbank in the County of Perth. The Trailway is jointly managed by the County of Wellington and the Region of Waterloo (figure 1). The abandoned CPR right-of-way on which the Trailway runs was leased jointly from the Province by the Region and Wellington County in 1997. At the time the Advisory Board was established, the Board consisted of representatives of five (5) community groups and a number of member positions not affiliated with community groups. The community groups were designated as Trailway Steward Groups which had volunteered to develop and maintain the segments into which the Trailway is divided.

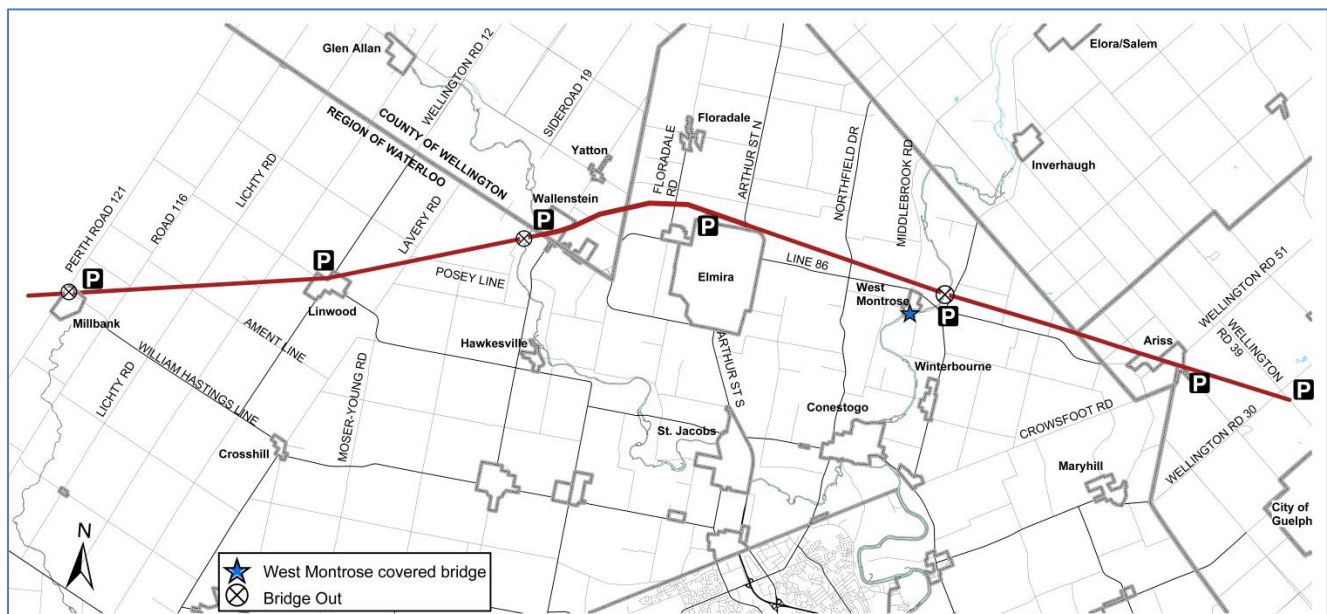


Figure 1 - Map of Kissing Bridge Trailway

Terms of Reference Amendments:

Currently, the Advisory Board has a number of long-term vacancies due to an inability to recruit suitable representatives. For example, there is only one agricultural community representative instead of four, and one non-farm landowner instead of three. Since the beginning of the Trailway Advisory Board, representation has been provided consistently by the Steward Groups, one non-farm landowner and the political appointees of the County and the Region. County and Regional staff have continued to provide administrative support to the Advisory Board, but are not members of the Board itself.

In 2017, the Golden Triangle Snowmobile Club (GTSA) disbanded as a result of reorganization of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC). As such, it is no longer a Trail Steward Group and no longer has representation on the Advisory Board. While the local agricultural community has been represented by members of the Waterloo and Wellington Federations of Agriculture since the formation of the Advisory Board, the Waterloo Federation has not had a representative since 2005. Given the changing makeup of surrounding communities and increased use of the trail, the following changes have been recommended that one (1) agricultural representative be removed and that one additional non-farm landowner be added to reflect the current active users of the trail.

The G2G Rail Trail (incorporated in 2014), was started in 2009 in an attempt to recreate the community connections of the original G&G Railway from Guelph to Goderich. For several years, the G2G Rail Trail has been represented at the Advisory Board by a liaison member - not officially a member of the Advisory Board. To create a closer connection between the Kissing Bridge Trailway Advisory Board and the G2G Rail Trail, Region and County staff recommend that the G2G Rail Trail Inc be included in the membership of the Advisory Board. As such the G2G Rail Trail would be represented by a member and an alternate of their choosing, as is the case with the Advisory Steward Groups.

Conclusion:

Revisions are necessary to ensure that we can continue to have adequate representation on the Kissing Bridge Trailway Advisory Board. To address this, the Terms of Reference is being amended as follows:

- o Remove the Golden Triangle Snowmobile Association (GTSA) as a Steward Group;
- o Remove one (1) agricultural representative and add one (1) non-farm landowner representative; and
- o Add one (1) representative of the Guelph to Goderich (G2G) Rail Trail Inc. as a member of the Board.

A copy of the amended Terms of Reference is available for review.

Recommendation:

That County Council support the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Kissing Bridge Trailway Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zach Prince', is written over a horizontal line.

Zach Prince RPP MCIP
Senior Planner