



## Meeting Notes

**Meeting:** Inglis Falls Conservation Area Management Plan Advisory Committee

**Date:** September 8, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Rebecca Ferguson, Morgan Barrie, Tim Lanthier, Scott Greig, Cathy Little, Cathy Moore Coburn, Steven Dollmaier, Mary Lynne McGregor, Bryan Plumstead, Dick Hibma, Jill Paterson, Jason Weppler, Murray Peer, Frank Schoenhoeffer, Emily Martin, Valerie Coleman (note taker)

**Regrets:** Adam Parsons

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## Welcome

Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Ferguson, welcomed all participants and made a land acknowledgement.

Participants were invited to introduce themselves.

## Terms of Reference

Rebecca reviewed the ToR with the committee including rationale, study area, plan goals and objectives, plan process, management plan deliverables, management plan phases, advisory committee, public consultation, and timeline.

Emily asked what the status of the archeological search was.

Frank assured the committee that the Bruce Trail Conservancy is happy to help.

## Review of Management Zones

Rebecca reviewed the 2000 established zones and the 2021 proposed zones. Some zones have changed

Dick raised a concern raised around accommodating high volumes of visitors. May need to be open to additional or different access for the public (to the top of the falls).

Mary Lynne mentioned that she has directed people to park at the Grey Roots Museum when the falls is very busy.

Zoning definitions comes from NPOS??

### **Visitor Numbers and Public Feedback**

Rebecca showed a graph of historical numbers and data from 2019. In 2019 GSCA started to use a car counter. No data from 2020. 2021 numbers show increase from 2019.

Review of online survey results, however; there were not a large number of respondents so data may not be representative.

### **Advisory Committee SWOT Analysis/Ideas**

Discussion from members:

Brian: Parking seems to be the biggest concern. Areas getting busier. Educating residents and visitors around parking and visiting sites.

Cathy M-C: Parking, discounts for residents. Accessibility and signage. Educational focus on site.

Cathy L: Good to see so many stakeholders at table. Developing partnerships. Involving community and increase volunteerism.

Dick: enhancing other aspects of the property to improve visitor experience. Marketing the many other opportunities.

Emily: Having SON representation/involvement in signage. Increasing the education of visitors to area. The ethics of land management; are there ways of incorporating SON into how conservation authorities' management of lands.

Frank: Parking and Education. Educating visitors on trail and visitor etiquette. Is it possible to provide different areas for parking?

Jason: Smoke free conservation areas. Ban on smoking on property.

Jill: happy to see a partnership between Grey Roots and GSCA. Trail from Harrison Park to Grey Roots. Interpretive trail with input from Indigenous community. Walking tours between Inglis Falls and Grey Roots.

Mary Lynne: Website may not adequately inform visitors. Many visitors are not prepared to be on trails. Many visitors enjoy hearing the history of the property.

Morgan: Parking, upgrade trail marking and signage, trail to falls that makes it safe to view the base of the falls. Improving accessibility. Opportunities to increase revenue streams. Compliance with rules and etiquette. Infrastructure improvements.

Murray: Parking, reduced rates for residents. Trails etiquette, especially pet waste. Shuttle run from Grey Roots to Inglis Falls.

Scott: Mountain and/or fat biking. Listen to what users are looking to experience. Maintain focus of ecology. Look at alternative places to park. What types of signage do visitors want to see?

Steven: Concerns expressed around the levels of difficulty on trails. Invasive species, managing and educating. Including local schools.

Tim: Clarify that parking issues are primarily at the top of the falls as opposed to the arboretum. Fiscal sustainability is also important. GSCA has incorporated resident seasons pass rate, which was very successful for 2021. Wayfinding signage. Accessibility is possible at the arboretum section of property, ie (paving a path through the arboretum). Potential to use building beside the falls. Leveraging visitorship to benefit neighboring communities.

### **Sharing of GSCA Staff Ideas**

Rebecca gave an overview of some of the ideas staff have developed.

### **Open Discussion**