

FORM "A"
TO BE COMPLETED BY ANYONE
WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
No decision will be made at the same meeting as your presentation.

Names of individuals making the presentation:

Sherm Embree accompanied by Anita Hopkins, Borden Newell and perhaps others representing the Woodland Multiuse Trail Association and the Shelburne County ATV Association.

Points to be made:

___Thanks for support to date, State of shared multiuse trails in MoB / Shelburne County and SW Nova Scotia, future plans for trails in MoB and Shelburne County, trail maintenance and regulation, recreational / tourism and business benefits of Trans Canada Trails, need and request for maintenance and developmental support.

Purpose and any requests that may be forthcoming from the presentation:

___To inform Council and appropriate municipal staff of trail development and maintenance situation and request for further support prior to budget considerations.

Please attach a copy of your written or power point presentation.

Will your presentation be made in person or virtually? In person _____

Time requested for presentation: 15 minutes _ + questions period time _ 30 minutes _____

Signature

Print Name: Sherm Embree_____

Mailing Address: 1784 East Sable River Road_____

Phone Number: 902 656-2793_____

E-mail address: scombree@auracom.com_____

Will you require a projector and computer for your presentation ?

NOTE: Individuals or groups making presentations are required to address their comments and questions to the Chair of the Meeting only.

Form "A" must be returned at least 7 days in advance of the Meeting you wish to attend.

**Presentation to Municipality of Barrington re
State of Trails in Shelburne County 11 Jan 2021
by the Woodlands Multiuse Trail Association (WMTA)**

Thank you for your invitation to present. I am Sherm Embree the Treasurer of the Woodland Multi use Trail Association.

With me to assist in today's presentation are: _____ of WMTA, _____ of SCATVA. And Trail managers from Lunenburg and the Annapolis Valley.

Photo – Trail club of year at kiosk

1. The Woodland Multiuse Trail Association has done very well at trail development. Since starting in June 2006 we have constructed seven trails for a total of 73 kilometers. It has been a busy 14 years. In each of the past several years we have had over 200 members (Facebook over 900). Our aim is to complete a shared multi use trail across Shelburne County (125.8 kilometers) primarily on abandoned rail bed public lands. (Thirty six km have yet to be developed under LOA.) We are also now part of The Great Trail (The Trans Canada Trail) with the Nova Scotia Trails Federation and other trail groups creating a continuous connected trail around the Western Loop of Nova Scotia. The NS Trails Federation leads and coordinates trail organizations in trail development and the implementation of the Nova Scotia Provincial Trails Strategy.

2. Funding for the trails has come by multiple grant applications, association memberships, fundraising and in kind labour. Grants have come from NS CCH RTEF (up to 1/3 of eligible project costs), NS OHV Trails Infrastructure Fund (up to 50% of eligible project costs), ACOA Innovative Communities Fund and from Municipalities. There is also a large contribution of in kind volunteer work from WMTA members on all projects for barriers, bridges, and sign placement. Our volunteers also organize recreational events, do litter pickup, and encourage proper trail use through our Trail Warden and Etiquette program. Our partners, the Shelburne County ATV Association, have taken on the role of setting the example for proper trail use, maintaining the trail,

organizing recreation and fundraising. We are members of the Shelburne County Tourism Association and the NS Trails Federation.

Photo – Kiack Brook Bridge

3. In Barrington Municipality we have completed the trail from west to east for 40.2 km including 10 bridges. Our sixth trail from (10.8km) Barrington Bay to Clement's Pond completed in 2015 and the reconstruction of the Barrington River (Kiack Brook) Bridge completed in December 2016. In addition to our own trails we completed the transfer of the (1.9 km) Barrington Bay Trail and the (1.5) km Woods Harbour Trail (Cockawit Pass T'Railway) as a multi use shared trail. A shared multi use trail is now complete through MoB all the way to the Town of Yarmouth.

4. We are connecting currently fragmented trails across eastern Shelburne County in partnership with others. Our seventh project completed last year on the 15 kilometers of trail in East Jordan including the upgrade of six bridges. WMTA has applied for permission and grants for trail construction of another 6.3 km of trail at Jordan Branch. To be constructed in 2021 if all goes well.

Two Photos – Barrington Bay damage and resurfacing

5. Trail construction costs to build to provincial trail standards have been approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 per kilometer depending upon the extent of bridge repairs. Trail redevelopment or resurfacing is dependant upon the project size. Two examples of redevelopment are storm damage repair in January of 2019 of Barrington Bay Trailway at \$27,245 for 1.9 km and resurfacing 1.3 km of trail west of Wireless Road at \$21,102.50. Trail associations around the province have found maintenance is about \$500 per kilometer per year and some have standing contracts with contractors to do trail brush cutting, mowing and grading. (See example of Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition maintenance contract.) In Shelburne County trail maintenance is done by users volunteering time, skills and equipment. The trail and ATV Associations own a tractor, grader blades, two mowers, a brush cutting sickle bar and equipment storage container. We need more

and better equipment, more user maintenance and a maintenance contract. We have carried a heavy load in trail development and maintenance and done it all with volunteers and grant approvals. We are stretched and yet want to do more and better. The community and municipality have been very supportive but we barely keep the trail to the standard we and the community wish.

Photo – mowers or graders

6. We see the trails through MOB as a community and municipal infrastructure resource just as are your parks, arena and ball fields. We would ask that you support the trails just as you do other recreational and tourism infrastructure. We need municipal support to fund a yearly maintenance contract. We would like municipal support to fund repairs and trail improvements or enhancements. We would like municipal support in the management of the trail by the assignment of trail management responsibilities to municipal staff or by hiring a trail manager as done in Digby County and the Annapolis Valley.

7. In conclusion, we have constructed nearly 73 kilometers of high quality, safe multi use trail on mostly public land. That is 73 km of trail on the 125 km of rail bed across Shelburne County. WMTA has developed a safe, high quality shared multi use trail contributing to the recreational, cultural, economic and tourism future of SW Nova Scotia. We see this as partial fulfillment of a provincial vision to have a core, shared, multi use trail around Western Nova Scotia as part of the Canadian Great Trail. We hope that Municipality of Barrington will consider this vision for the benefit of the community in their future discussions.

8. Thank you for this opportunity to present. You are welcome to come on a trail ride and we will offer to take you on the trails anytime.

9. Your questions would be welcome.

KEY WORDS / concepts to convey / SOCOs:

Additional tourism access other than highway and sea.

Safety of public trails versus undeveloped ad hoc, illegal routes.
Accidents are rare on our developed trails.

Provincial Investment at highways on bridges and tunnels:
Ingramport, Digby Hwy 101, Port Mouton.

Maintenance is done by trail users, volunteers and club members who
need financial, equipment, and contracted support.

Trail Towns: Greater Alleghany Passage (GAP), Weymouth, etc.