

Forest Valley Trails Working Group (FVTWG)
PROTECTION, SUSTAINABILITY AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CHAPEL HILL NORTH FOREST AND ITS TRAILS
Public Feedback on the FVTWG Report

Report on the Public Information Meeting
Presentation of the FVTWG Report and Question & Answer Period
November 5, 2018, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Orleans Public Library

Board of Directors, Chapel Hill North Community Association (CHNCA)

Katie Morissette, President
Kait Greaves, Vice-President
Brett Stewart, Treasurer
Nancy Barrett, Secretary
Pascal Laverdure, Director Parks and Recreation

Forest Valley Trails Working Group (FVTWG):

Susan Davies
John Dick
Chris Ratcliffe
David Trus

Moderator:

Paul Bolt, President, Chapel Hill South Community Association

Documents:

FVTWG Report and Public Meeting Slide Presentation: <http://www.chapel-hill-north-forest-trails.ca/>

Meeting Participants:

Total of 52 participants: 36 registered CHN residents; 10 registered surrounding area residents; 1 registered but residency not indicated; and approximately 5 who did not register.

Introduction

K. Morissette welcomed the participants to the public information meeting for the presentation of the FVTWG Report and Q&A period and made introductory remarks, including presentation of the FVTWG team and the CHNCA Board of Directors. She thanked the Chapel Hill South President who graciously agreed to be the Moderator for the evening in a show of community spirit. She also introduced and thanked the new City Innes Ward Councillor-Elect Laura Dudas for attending so she can see how engaged, active and respectful the CHN community association is.

This meeting was organized by the CHNCA, a volunteer organization with the aim to improve the quality of life in CHN. It is a special public information meeting, not a regular CHNCA meeting: no agenda and no call to order. Last year, an ad hoc Working Group (WG) of CHN residents was started to look at options for Forest Valley trails maintenance. The purpose is for the FVTWG to present its report; it is not a debate and no vote will be taken. The report was developed by the FVTWG; it does not necessarily represent the views of the CHNCA Board. The Board remains neutral and its role is to help facilitate the gathering of comments.

The FVTWG will present its report and then there will be a Q&A session to seek clarification from the authors themselves. K. Morissette outlined the principles guiding the meeting – the dialogue will be constructive, respectful and end on time. Participants were informed that this public information meeting would be recorded for record keeping purposes.

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K. Morissette thanked past and present FVTWG members for their hard work and dedication to this project. The CHNCA looks forward to receiving feedback from meeting participants, as well as online submissions to the CHNCA email account (email address on slide).

FVTWG Report Presentation

The Forest Valley Trails Working Group's presentation consisted of a 25-slide PowerPoint deck shown on an overhead screen and talking points by the FVTWG. The primary presenter was S. Davies with input from J. Dick, D. Trus and C. Ratcliffe.

Website link for the Public Meeting slide presentation: www.chapel-hill-north-forest-trails.ca

Participants were invited to write their questions on paper provided by CHNCA, to be answered following the presentation by the Working Group.

Questions & Answers

After the FVTWG report presentation, the meeting **Moderator** sorted the collected questions, triaged the order in which the questions were to be presented, read out the questions to the Working Group, and monitored the response time. He grouped the questions into four categories – boundary, heritage, use and scope. Some questions were rapid-fire, while others were in-depth. A few questions were taken from the floor. Unless otherwise specified below, questions were answered by S. Davies (FVTWG).

The 21 Q&As have been transcribed from the recording with some editing for format and grammar and with clarifications added in *italics and [brackets]* after the fact.

Q.1 - Why is there a chain link fence restricting access to the City portion from the Greenbelt?

A.1 – This is a good question. The chain link fence belongs to the NCC [*National Capital Commission*]. It is laid along a straight line along the boundary of NCC's property. This fence separates NCC property from residences, parks/open spaces, RCMP property, and the City of Ottawa section of the CHN forest. There are numerous fence sections that are down because of tree falls. In some places, the fence has been cut by forest users to get through. Sometimes there is a tree on the boundary so there is a small break in the fence surrounding the tree.

Q.2 – Ancillary question by Q.1 participant – Does the City representative know? I posed the question and the reason why is that when you are on the Greenbelt side it is all open, then as you are going north on the Greenbelt side from Innes past the residences there is that chain link fence that does not allow you to go into the City forest area.

A.2 – There is an open section on the northern NCC boundary where the fence has been opened and parts have been rolled back, thus allowing passage to the City section of the CHN forest.

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Q.3 - Who owns the forested land on the area to the east of Forest Valley and Des Ravines Place up to Orleans Boulevard? Is this area part of the Working Group's focus?

A.3 - The City of Ottawa owns the forested land bordering these three streets in question, including Heritage Park. Bilberry Creek runs through the forested area and is one of several creeks, like Voyageur Creek in CHN Forest, that flows down the escarpment to the Ottawa River. The Bilberry Creek forest area is zoned by the City as EP Environmental Protection, as is Voyageur Creek forest area west of Forest Valley Drive. Part of the forested land mentioned in Q.3 is owned by the religious organization of Grey Nuns and is zoned Institutional. [*Maison Notre-Dame-de-la- Providence, The Sisters of Charity of Ottawa*]. So, this area is a city-owned forest similar to CHN Forest that also surrounds a creek.

[The forested area mentioned in Q.3 is also referred to as Voyageur Creek Valley according to the City of Ottawa Parks 2016 Teranet map. While the City's forested land surrounding Bilberry Creek is zoned EP, Heritage Park is zoned I1E Minor Institutional with permitted uses of recreational or athletic facilities].

Q.4 - Is the forest behind Rivermill Crescent, Place des Ravins and Beausejour Drive, etc. included in your study; if not, why? ¹ Audience requested to see the presentation slide with the map.

A.4 – Heritage Park and Bilberry Creek areas are not part of the FVTWG study. There is potential for the City to look at the forest area mentioned [*Bilberry Creek*]. We see that what we are doing in Chapel Hill North Forest is a model, and possibly applicable to the other forested river ravines that are parallel to CHN Forest with similar woods and forests.

[Clarifications:

[A.4 Given the similarities of these two relatively compact natural areas (CHN Forest/Voyageur Creek and Bilberry Creek), as well as other East Ottawa ravine forests, the FVTWG report identified an opportunity for the City to take a more comprehensive view with proactive management of EP Environmental Protection forests. Ref. Chapter 2 Priority 1 Environmental Protection.

[A.4 The 2017 Ottawa Mountain Bike Association's (OMBA) proposal focused on a specific tract of forested land situated west of Forest Valley Drive residences, bordered by Innes Road, St. Joseph Blvd. and the RCMP land. This area is identified as CHN Forest in the FVTWG study. The CHN Forest has been part of the NCC Greenbelt since 1996. In terms of land ownership, the northern section is owned by the City of Ottawa, and the southern section by the NCC. The City has zoned all CHN Forest as EP Environmental Protection and has designated it as a Natural Environment Area with important Urban Natural Features, such as Voyageur Creek. The NCC has designated the CHN Forest as a Core Natural Area with High-Value Ecosystems and Habitats. Ref. FVTWG Report - Annex A.]

¹ **Q.4 - Similar question submitted but not read aloud: "Thank you very much for an outstanding report! Who owns the forest area to the east of Forest Valley – des Ravins Place – up to Orleans Blvd.? Is this area part of the working groups focus? Concern: Notable proliferation of trails in this area, erosion and notable decrease of flora because of off-leash dogs in and around entry points & further."**

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Q.5 – Is the Working Group only interested in closing the forest to foot traffic? The Group seems to be focussing only on foot. What about ski, bike, dog walking and trail running? Is the Group only focussed on foot traffic?

A.5 - The FVTWG report refers to all uses and multi-users, and even proposes examples of user protocols [*Annex D Examples of Trail Protocols*]. It does not recommend closing the forest to foot traffic. The report recommends proper and timely City and NCC reviews and environmental studies before official trails are designed to ensure appropriate and compatible use of the forest and trails.

Q.6 – Based on NCC and City regulations, can we allow all community users as long as they follow the landowners' rules?

A.6 – That is a good question, because other jurisdictions have had to come to grips with increased use and pressures on natural urban areas. As residences and neighbourhoods grow and the population density increases, there is increased use of natural areas. One of the factors the designers in the City and the NCC look at is the expectation of future use and users. Under the City's Older Adult Plan, by 2031 one out of 5 residents is going to be an senior, so what does that mean for urban natural areas and the user? Who is going to be using the forest in 20 years and 30 year's time? This is a very good question for the City and the NCC and will probably be based on population specifics/demographics; housing forecasts e.g. multiple housing or single-family housing. There are a whole bunch of variables.

A.6 D. Trus (FVTWG): You probably notice that many rules are put in place to prevent bad behaviours or in response to something. So, you have to set some limits. I administer a Federal Act so I know a little about that. Excessive focus on the rules is really focussing really on things that are maybe trying to address a problem. So those form part of the overall protocols, but when you are trying to find a way forward, you are looking at what are appropriate things to do, not necessarily focussing on what not to do. But it will form a part in the end of setting out appropriate guidelines for the forest.

A.6 S. Davies (FVTWG) – The CHNCA Board of Directors asked the Working Group about “appropriate use”, and whether we can add a definition for “appropriate use” in our report. In our research, there were lots of references to “appropriate this” and “appropriate that”, but there wasn't any City or NCC public definition that we could find for “appropriate use”. It seems to depend on the circumstances and what environment you are talking about, e.g. the appropriate use for an asphalt pathway is different than for a forest. So, it will be something to raise with the NCC and the City in terms of what is appropriate use for an EP Environmental Protection forest with a creek that goes through it, like Chapel Hill North. So, my answer is that appropriate use is dependent on the environment. The City and NCC might have a slightly different answer.

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Q.7 – What is the most significant environmental impact that has occurred as a result of the trails and that can be mitigated by redirecting trails or limiting trail usage?

A.7 – There are two significant impacts that have been identified by experts: fragmentation of habitat due to criss-crossing trails and trail braiding which means that every time you create more trails it fragments the natural habitat of wildlife - birds, animals, amphibians, whatever; and the second one is soil erosion. Erosion and what is called “soil displacement” similar to erosion when the conditions are wet and the soil gets pushed particularly down towards the wetter areas thus contributing to filling in creeks, wet areas and forest pools.

Q.8 - How did you come to the determination that trails access might be contrary to the intended use of Forest Glen Park? The park benches right at the trailhead seem to clearly indicate that the intended use is to go into the woods.

A.8 J. Dick (FVTWG) - I don't think we are saying we want to close that area. We are saying that when you design trails and look at the parking and potential location of a trailhead, would that be appropriate for Forest Glen Park? Would we want a trailhead there?

Q.9 Ancillary question from audience re: trailhead and garbage

A.9 J. Dick (FVTWG) – a trailhead is a place where people gather at the start and there could be washrooms, there will be signs, there will be interpretation information, stuff like that. We would have to put garbage pails throughout the trails anyway. There is no intention to close something like that; but we want to make sure the community gets involved in any plans for trails [*entrance/exit, park benches, signs, garbage, parking*] so they get what they want, and so that the City in that case knows what the local community wants.

Q.10 - One page of questions has to do with Ottawa Mountain Bike Association (OMBA). So, what exactly was OMBA's proposal; was it to build new trails, make major changes, add better ways to avoid the muddy sections and erosion which currently exists, or other things?

A.10 - There are people here who are better versed in answering that. Actually, there is an author of the proposal here in the room, but I will start out and then maybe I can pass it over to him. Our understanding, because we came upon the proposal like others resident back in May 2017, is that the proposal looked at building trails, bridges and structures, and maintaining trails, bridges and structures, but that is a very simplistic overview.

A.10 J. Dick (FVTWG) – OMBA wanted to enter into a formal Agreement with the City of Ottawa to maintain the trails, and in the proposal, they said “in accordance with IMBA standards” - International Mountain Bicycling Association standards. They were using mountain biking terminology “single track”, “back country”, things like that. That is what I think got a lot of people upset because residents said, “we don't want this to be a mountain bike area”, and I don't think that was the intention.

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Q.11 - We have about 20 minutes left. Do you want to give OMBA 5 minutes or so?

A.11 P. Laverdure (CHNCA Board) – I am just a member of OMBA. I wrote the proposal because as a resident I wanted to see things improve in the forest. The proposal was basically not building trails, it had nothing to do with building trails, it had everything to do with repairing and replacing bridges that were coming apart that were being dislodged and trails that were going in directions that were creating more and more erosion. So, it was doing a lot of the stuff we have been talking about here; that’s it for the most part. Part of the reason OMBA was approached and I worked with them is because they have responsible trail etiquette, they have the equipment, they have the knowledge, they have the expertise on how to maintain and take care of trails. They have been doing it with the NCC and the City for years now, and they have that experience, so that is why I asked them to help me prepare the proposal. So that is essentially what it was. The City and the NCC asked me to prepare the proposal ahead of consultations.

A.11 S. Davies (FVTWG) – There was another aspect that Chapel Hill North residents reacted to – they felt that there needed to be an environmental assessment first because there are no official trails. So, if you are going to have official trails then you should start with a clean slate and say where should those trails be located. My understanding is that it would be a multi-disciplinary study looked at by biologists, foresters and others, to say OK, what is the lay of the land? What do we want to protect for the future? What is hardy and resilient and there’s no problem, and will it withstand future use and increased use? Because that is what they have to do – the City and the NCC have to look forward. The NCC has a plan that goes to 2067 – a brand-new plan [*NCC – The Plan for Canada’s Capital 2017-2067*]. The City is about to have a new City Council and they will also have a new long-term *Official Plan [with short-term budgets]* based on projections to 2031. The Province of Ontario has asked the City to extend their projections to 2036; that is what the City is planning now.

Q.12 Question from the audience on the CHN Petition. The 635 [correction: 633] residents who signed – that is the same thing you are talking about here now – the petition and the proposal?

A.12 K. Morrisette (CHNCA Board) – If participants want to ask a question it should be written.

It was agreed to hear the question.

A.12 S. Davies (FVTWG) – No, the OMBA proposal and the CHN Petition are two different things.

A.12 K. Morrisette (CHNCA Board) – But the Petition was to reject that same proposal.

Audience – One is related to the other. OK. Thank you.

Q.13 – We will move on to questions regarding the scope of your study. Do you have data collected on the types and amounts of use by type? If so, how was it collected?

A.13 – No, we do not. The FVTWG did not collect data. There was a small study done by Chapel Hill North Community Association in about May, June or August 2017...?

A.13 K. Morrisette (CHNCA Board) – In 2016. I would use that term “study” very loosely – it was an initial...

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A.13 S. Davies (FVTWG) – Survey – 63 people were asked?

A.13 K. Morrissette (CHNCA Board) – I can't remember the details. It probably was something very miniscule just to get a flavour of the variety and type of uses of the forest because at that point we had no idea.

A.13 S. Davies (FVTWG) – There is no tree inventory in the forest, biological inventory or usage inventory. This we found out from the experts, and they included it in their written report *[of the Walkabout]*.² There is no usage data. So, there is no data. It is not totally unmanaged, but largely an unmanaged forest.

Q.14 – From the audience: Can I say something? The other night I got a call from the NCC on the Greenbelt, how the usage was; if I used it, where I used it, how I used it, not last night but the night before. Not specifically on the Greenbelt but then they asked me specifically east, west, south, and they continued to ask a few questions. I thought it was a little ironic – I used to work for the NCC and I was wondering if they were pulling names out of a hat (*laughter*), or employee data base. My husband actually answered the phone and he did not mention that I worked for the NCC and he actually answered the questions and that was two nights ago. It was a survey they were conducting.

A.14 Moderator - Perhaps that is something you can touch base with the NCC on.

A.14 S. Davies (FVTWG) – That is a good point. We have certainly noticed that the NCC is far more actively engaged on websites now; they have changed their public outreach. You can link up and get regular updates, and they have very interesting profiles and lots of really good information. It would be really nice if the City had something like that too (*laughter*).

Q.15 – Is it possible to dovetail the requirements expressed in the [FVTWG] report with what the City has committed to in their Urban Forest Management Plan in one-year or greater increments?

A.15 – Do you mean to make them parallel – compare what we are recommending with the City's Urban Forest Management Plan?

A.15 Moderator – That's it.

A.15 – Good Point. We can. There are 26 recommendations in the Urban Forest Management Plan. One of them is in our recommendations but is future oriented. One of the things the City has said is that they are very concerned about continuing to have a very strong tree canopy. So, there is a big program to plant lots of trees – some 500,000 a year, around the area. Ecology Ottawa gives out free trees. What they have said, and it is a very consistent message, is that when you have a forest like this one in CHN, what is important for wildlife are continuous linkages between forests and other green areas so that wildlife and birds, can move from green area to green area, and these are called corridors or linkages. Like if you take a look at the Innes

² [A.13 - The FVTWG organized a Walkabout in the CHN Forest on September 25, 2017 and invited some key officials/experts. Participants included the City of Ottawa (Forestry, Environment, Parks &/Rec departments), Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Greenspace Alliance of Ottawa, CHNCA and FVTWG. Afterwards, officials/experts submitted written reports to the FVTWG.]

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Road Bypass, there is a big woodlot there. Well, in between the woodlot and the forest, there's a triangle, and there is busy Innes Road. So, the question is how animals migrate – is it a fairly close link between the two. If it is not contiguous, it is pretty close.

The Urban Forest Management Plan has a program that they are interested in; created by the University of Toronto called “Neighbourwoods”. It is a program that gets communities involved in doing an inventory of trees on private property. They say that the more trees you have on private property – commercial and houses – forms a continuous link with the forest area and so you continue to allow movement of birds, small animals, raccoons and skunks ... The “Neighbourwoods” program is a unique program; there are only two in Ottawa – both are pilots and in the west end. Right now the City's Forestry Department does not have the capacity to move forward with this program, but they are interested in lining up communities. What it would do is an inventory of our streets. But that is medium-to longer term. But it is a way too for those residents who wants to plant more trees, we could get more trees.

Q.16 – Can we apply the best practices of forest management of other urban forests, such as the South March Forest?

A.16 - South March Highlands?

Yes.

A.16 - I think there are some people here that know South March more than we might. South March Highlands is a big area and it has forest and wetlands. Like Carp Hills as well that has barren land, forest, marshes, wetland; a real mix. I think the answer is yes, but CHN is a small forest. It is only 269 acres in total – one square kilometre. It is a compact forest relatively similar to others on the escarpment in the City area, so some of the lessons could be used. Stony Creek is another example that the NCC has commented on. Stony Creek is a vastly bigger area [*than CHN Forest*] – the NCC's Stony Creek Sector is in the southwest of Ottawa. A vast area with all sorts of different land designations. Some of them are like the CHN forest. So, we looked at Stony Creek - we have looked at where the trails are in Stony Creek and where they are not in Stony Creek. And it goes through different area. Yes, and I think this is where we engage the NCC to look at the similarities and we engage the province to find out what they are doing with their Conservation Areas around the city, and the other forests in the City. And other urban forests. I was in touch with the General Manager of the brand-new Rouge National Urban Park [*Scarborough, Ontario*]. Some of my sister's farmland was taken over by this urban park, so they know it well. There are lots of lessons learned that the Rouge Valley went through with Parks Canada in terms of creating a park for people.

Q.17 – If the Working Group were to prioritize protection of one specific small area within the woodland, where would that area be and what wildlife habitat would be protected in doing so?

A.17 – Maybe the City area...?

A.17 D. Trus (FVTWG) – I don't know I would frame it quite that way. I think the most amount of damage is the area in the City property which has had a lot of holes and erosion areas. I think in the Walkabout ³ that

³ [A.17 - See Walkabout explanation in A.13 footnote.]

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was partly covered too. It probably has been most significantly affected. In terms of protection, I think you have to look at the whole of the forest. S. Davies mentioned the trees and particularly that is mostly in the NCC area and that is unique, but the City property has the most damage on it.

A.17 S. Davies (FVTWG) – Because the NCC property is so flat, and it also has the cathedral trees way up high. So, what you get more there is tree falls in the high winds. Fallen trees will cross over the path and then people have to make random paths. So, in well-managed forests, if that is going to be the trail, then what they do is take away those fallen trees, so people do not create brand-new trails and disrupt the forest on another side.

Q.18 – I am going to move back to other questions here – I am just going to amend this slightly, but it goes back to the collection of data. Was there a specific part of the process that data was not collected. Do you feel confident with the recommendations that you have made, based on the fact that there was not a survey? ⁴

A.18 – A lot of our information was based on City, NCC and Rideau Valley actual documents, policies and plans. It is the forest. It exists and it has been studied in 2003. When you look at the research document called the Brunton Report [*Urban Natural Area No.82*] – in fact there is a map in the report that comes from Daniel Brunton and it is a fascinating ecological and environmental study. 190-some natural areas of the City of Ottawa were identified after amalgamation in 2001, and 177 of them were studied. Chapel Hill North came out third highest; high, high ecological value – high ecological significance and high ranking in terms of value. The other one that was very high is near Cardinal Creek, also along the escarpment. But not a lot of other studies – there have not been forest inventories.

A.18 J. Dick (FVTWG) – Rideau Valley Conservation Authority City Stream Watch studied Voyageur Creek and Bilberry Creek in 2013-2015.

A.18 S. Davies (FVTWG) – Ottawa’s City Stream Watch is a volunteer group [*of individuals and organizations*] which works with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority [*and the other two watershed Conservation Authorities in the Ottawa area – South Nation and Mississippi*]. They take a look at streams and creeks and study them. Voyageur Creek was studied in 2013-14. They looked at the waterways, they looked at garbage, they looked at the biology – there are actually fish in Voyageur Creek. They looked at what is the makeup of the forest on the edge of the creek – the riparian area – the sides of the creek, but they don’t go much beyond the water – I think about 100 metres on either side of the creek. To the question though – our hope would be that the NCC and the City might take a look at trying to increase their baseline data of this forest and maybe Chapel Hill North could help in that regard.

⁴ [Q.18 - Actual written question: “Is there an intent to make recommendations without collecting usage data?”]

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Q.19 – That is it for the questions. There is a lengthy question that I am going to have you write a response to. Well, it has to do with scope and some other. I can read it. We do have time, so do you want me to read it?

FVTWG and CHNCA – Go ahead

The Forest Glen Park Forest has been designated as an Urban Natural Feature and also has an environmentally protected zone with High-Value Ecosystems and Habitat (HVEH) status. The purpose of the Urban Natural Feature designation is to preserve the natural features that are currently managed for conservation or passive leisure usage. A study was performed in 2010 by the Ottawa Stewardship Council whose purpose of the study was to identify and assess the relative environmental value of these natural areas across the entire urban area and make recommendations for management of these lands aimed at the long-term sustainability. In that study the Forest Glen Park forest area scored the third highest out of a list of 187 priority areas. At this moment, in view of the observable degradation of the Forest Glen Park forest, and in order to respect the letter and the spirit of the special designation of this forest, would you then recommend a thorough environment study of the health of this forest before proceeding with the actions of that forest area? And if so, do you intend to add it to your report?

A.19 – Good question. Our understanding of the way the City and the NCC operate – more so the City – they lay it out very clearly in an environmental impact statement in the Official Plan. When you go into an environmentally protected area there are requirements to do environmental assessments. However, from what we gather from talking to individuals, the environmental assessments are dependent on the area. So, the decisions of the City (or the NCC, I guess) – they will determine what kind of assessment to do: a full environmental assessment that could be “dollars to doughnuts” or a more limited one. It all falls under the EIS – Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines and it is an Official Plan legal requirement in EP Environmental Protection areas.

A.19 J. Dick (FVTWG) – We do address that in Priority 2 Forest Trails [*Report Chapter2*]. Because the City and NCC are the landowners, we can’t tell them, but we do say we should encourage them to do a baseline study as S. Davies has noticed. The words we actually used there ...

A.19 S. Davies (FVTWG) – Sound Environmental Base Planning and Design.

A.19 J. Dick (FVTWG) - Do a study at the start and then you know where you are coming from, make the plan and then in accordance with the legal requirements do the environmental impact study to see if there is any negative impact, what you have to mediate, what you have to do. So, you do these two things: do a study at the start, make the plan based on that, and then do the legal requirement for the no negative impact study. But it is their decision and how in depth these studies will be.

A.19 S. Davies (FVTWG) – At the back of the FVTWG Report there is a Glossary. There is a definition of negative impact or adverse impact and it is part of the Environmental Impact Statement. It says that if you are going into an environmentally protected area you have to look for possibilities of adverse impact or negative impact and you have to mediate or find mitigation measures. Or not - avoid having an impact. So again, you have to go through the process to identify those areas and then our understanding is that there

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Public Feedback on the FVTWG Report

Report on the Public Information Meeting
Presentation of the FVTWG Report and Question & Answer Period
November 5, 2018, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Orleans Public Library

could be an opportunity for dialogue and engagement with residents and the City as to what are our objectives and what are the City's objectives and how do we build a trail that is sustainable and meets the environmental impact requirements.

Closing Remarks

K. Morrissette (CHNCA Board) – Thank you so much to everyone in the Working Group. I think you did a tremendous job (*applause*). Lots of great information, a wonderful presentation. If there are follow-up questions or additional feedback you would like to submit tonight, there are some hard-copy papers here you can jot out your comments.

Otherwise I encourage you all to submit your comments on the Report and the three Options that were presented to the common Chapel Hill North Feedback email.

L. Dudas, Innes Ward Councillor-Elect – I will be quick. I also want to thank the Working Group, because they have volunteered so much of their time towards this, and I know exactly what you are saying. I also want to note too that I have read the report. I have taken away the fact that the City and the Councillor's office will have a significant role in whatever you decide. So, I want to make sure you know that I will be supporting you in whatever the outcome is.

But I also know that this room isn't all of Chapel Hill North residents, right? So I would encourage you to do is provide your feedback and let your neighbours know as well that there is a link – an email - that they can provide their feedback on because we want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to have their say on the future of our shared forest. I just wanted to mention that and thank the Association for hosting this event and for all the work going forward. Thank you very much.

D. Trus (FVTWG) – I would like to say thanks to our two WG Co-chairs in the first two years – Pascal Laverdure and André Landry – because they really did a tremendous job moving us forward, and obviously to S. Davies who picked up the ball after that and is a real workhorse. I am the minimalist.

K. Morrissette (CHNCA Board) – Do you want further questions from the audience?

S. Davies (FVTWG) – We have three minutes so if there is one hand up...

<p>Q.20 I have a question for K. Morissette. In order to make sure that all the publication of the community is aware of this report, how do you intend to publicize this? Is there going to be a flyer being sent to all residents of Chapel Hill North?</p>
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A.20 K. Morrissette (CHNCA Board) – There will be flyers on mailboxes. Given the timing, with the post-elections and everything, in order to meet the November 30th deadline, there won't be time to hand-deliver flyers to every single house, but there will be flyers on community mailboxes and other notices – do you have suggestions on how else we can advertise?

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A.21 Can I suggest you put something on the trailhead entrances? Those are the people who are using the trails and care the most about this and it is worthwhile for them.

A.21 K. Morrisette (CHNCA Board) – Great idea. Maybe not in this wet weather! *(laughter)*

S. Davies (FVTWG) – I would like to thank the representative of the City of Ottawa, Mr. Luc Généreux, here tonight, who has taken over as Senior Planner, Parks & Recreation, and will be our contact.

End of meeting.

Meeting recorded (1hr:41min) for the CHNCA by D. Barrett, CHN resident.

Participants' written questions provided to the FVTWG and filed by N. Barrett, CHNCA Secretary.

Public meeting transcript created by N. Barrett, CHNCA Secretary.

Public meeting transcript reviewed by S. Davies, FVTWG.

Report provided by FVTWG to CHNCA Board of Directors, May 2019.