

April 22, 2021

Mayor Steele and Council
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 3C8

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Mayor Steele and Council,

Please be advised that at its meeting of April 16, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority adopted the following as Resolution No. FA-75-21:

*Moved by Board Member Mackenzie
Seconded by Board Member Huson*

WHEREAS the public has shown a strong desire and need to be out in nature in the NPCA watershed and across Ontario and it has been demonstrated that being in nature benefits our physical and mental health;

WHEREAS the Province and the Region of Niagara have identified that the population of Niagara is expected to grow by 226,000, or 50% by 2051;

WHEREAS the popularity of the present community-connecting trails like the Friendship Trail, Niagara River Waterfront Trail, Seaway Canal Trail, Dofasco Trail and the Gord Harry Trail is well documented;

WHEREAS there are a large number of unopened road allowances and abandoned rail lines and other possible corridors that are presently not accessible to the public that have the capability of making physical connections between the municipalities in Niagara and with Hamilton and Haldimand County;

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities including the NPCA have been shown to be agencies that can plan for and develop trails throughout their watersheds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:


1. **THAT** NPCA, being the agency with 2,845 ha of public land connecting Niagara, Hamilton and Haldimand, **CONVENE** a forum to bring agencies and municipalities in its watershed together to facilitate planning and development of an inter-jurisdictional trails network connecting municipalities, neighbourhood, employment areas, and nature destinations.
2. **THAT** NPCA municipalities **BE ENCOURAGED** to adopt, through official plan updates, expanded trail networks using publicly owned corridors, abandoned rails lines, and other opportunities.

3. **THAT** NPCA staff **EXPLORE** formal partnership opportunities with municipalities to map, build, and enhance trail connections.
4. **AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to the local and regional municipalities within NPCA's jurisdiction.

CARRIED

Should you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact CAO, Chandra Sharma at csharma@npca.ca or 905-788-3135.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Bivol', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grant Bivol
Clerk / Board Secretariat