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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL  
GREENLANDS SECUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

GSSC-2010-2

The Greenlands Securement Subcommittee met on March 25, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

**Members Present:** E. Kolb; E. Moore; R. Paterak; M. Prentice; A. Thompson

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:** D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; N. Trim, Commissioner Corporate Services; D. Labrecque, Public Works; K. Lockyer, Senior Legal Counsel; N. Tunnacliffe, Executive Direction, Transition & Integration; S. Banz, Manager, Rural/Environmental Policy Development, A. Prasad, Director of Planning Policy and Research; J. Wong, Planner, Planning Policy and Research; A. Santos, Senior Financial Analyst; C. Reid, Regional Clerk, R. Martin, Committee Clerk

*Chaired by Councillor Paterak*

1. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Nil**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION GSSC-1-2010:

That the agenda for the March 25, 2010 Greenlands Securement Subcommittee meeting be approved.

3. **DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

- a) **Beth Kummling, Executive Director and Antoin Diamond, Director of Land Securement, Bruce Trail Conservancy,** Requesting Partnership in the Region of Peel's Greenlands Securement Program

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\* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

Received

Beth Kummling provided an overview of Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Beth Kummling stated that the Bruce Trail Association was incorporated in 1963 and changed their name to the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) in October 2007. There are currently 8,700 members of the BTC and the Main Trail length is 885 km. The BTC oversees work on nine Bruce trail Clubs and has more than 1000 volunteers as well as 14 staff members. The main work of the BTC is conservation and preservation of the Niagara Escarpment. In the past five years the BTC has secured 2,175 acres of land along the Niagara Escarpment worth more than \$8.5 million.

Beth Kummling reported that the Bruce Trail is divided into nine sections with the Caledon Hills section running through the Region of Peel. 50 kilometres of the main Bruce Trail and 35 kilometres of side trails pass through the Region of Peel. Popular sections of the Bruce Trail within Peel include the Cheltenham Badlands, Forks of the Credit and the Glen Haffey Conservation Area.

Beth Kummling stated that the BTC is a member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and has special status under the Niagara Escarpment Plan to take conservation land severances. Decisions on property acquisitions are made by the Land Securement Secretariat, a group of 12 staff and volunteers with broad experience in law; real estate; planning; cartography; environmental sciences and land acquisitions.

Beth Kummling reported that the BTC focuses on fee simple acquisitions rather than conservation easements as fee simple acquisitions are more attractive to the landowner and do not require costly baseline documentation reports. The BTC appraise each property to establish a fair market value. The BTC seldom fences lands it acquires, unless encroachment would be an issue.

Beth Kummling provided an overview of the BTC Land Stewardship Program. Appropriate stewardship of the land after acquisition is a key program area for the BTC which is responsible for more than 6,800 acres of Escarpment land. Land Stewardship staff prepares a management plan which addresses such items as proper trail placement to address ecological sensitivities, restoration work that may be required and encroachment issues. The plan is then provided to the volunteer Land Stewards in the clubs who inspect the property three times annually. BTC staff provides technical assistance to the volunteers and take the lead in addressing issues of encroachment and misuse.

Beth Kummling reported that the BTC is an active partner in land securement. The BTC has a large base of volunteers who are able to scout suitable properties as well as assisting with stewarding the land once it is acquired. The BTC has a large member and donor base on which to draw funds to support purchase costs.

Beth Kummling stated that the BTC would welcome the opportunity to partner directly with the Region of Peel to bring their experience, volunteer dedication and donor backing to the Peel Greenlands program.

Councillor Paterak asked for further information on the BTC budget for managing their 7000 acres of land. Beth Kummling responded that the annual budget for land management is \$70,000 and the program involves two staff members who work with the volunteers.

Councillor Paterak thanked Beth Kummling for the presentation.

Councillor Paterak requested this issue be referred to Management staff.

b) **Michelle Albanese, Senior Land Conservation Specialist, Orland Conservation, Regarding Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program**

Received

Michelle Albanese provided an overview of the Environment of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program.

Michelle Albanese stated that in order to make landowners in Peel Region aware of their permanent conservation options, Orland Conservation has developed a Landowner Contact Package. This package contains details related to the Ecogift program which is administered by Environment Canada. The Ecogift program offers generous tax incentives for land donors whose property meets the program criteria.

Michelle Albanese reported that Ecogift recipients in the Region of Peel include the Oakridges Moraine Land Trust; the Bruce Trail Conservancy; Ducks Unlimited; the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Nature, the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the municipalities of Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon and the Region of Peel. Recipients of land from the Ecogift program are obligated to perpetually maintain the ecological and natural heritage of the property.

Michelle Albanese outlined the steps in the Ecogift process. First the property needs to meet Certification of Ecological Sensitivity to ensure it qualifies under the Ecogift program guidelines. If the property qualifies then an appraisal is done and it is reviewed by the Ecogift review panel to determine the value of the land. Then Ecogift issues a Certification for Donation of the ecologically sensitive land and a tax receipt is provided to the donor. This tax receipt provided to the land donor by the Ecogift program can be spread out over a maximum six year period.

Chair Kolb asked if land donor could not use up the tax receipt over the six year period, could an extension be provided by the Ecogift program. Kathryn Lockyer, Senior Legal Counsel, Region of Peel responded that the legislation allows for the tax receipt provided by the Ecogift program to only be used over a six year period and there are no provisions in the legislation for an extension.

Chair Kolb stated that both the Bruce Trail Conservancy and the Ecogift program have more privileges than private land owners when it comes to severances and separations of the property. Councillor Paterak noted that the BTC and the Ecogift program do not have development rights over the property. Chair Kolb stated that conservancy authorities are able to build ponds on their properties without the approval of the municipal government while private land owners are required to seek local government approval for a similar pond.

Councillor Paterak requested staff provide greater details on the privileges afforded conservation authorities that are not available to private land owners.

4. **REPORTS** - Nil

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) **Janet Wong, Planner, Region of Peel**, Advising of Tax Incentive and Stewardship Workshop for Landowners on Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Received

6. **IN CAMERA MATTERS** - Nil

7. **OTHER BUSINESS** - Nil

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Greenlands Securement Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 8:00 a.m., Regional Administrative Headquarters, 5th floor Boardroom, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Please forward regrets to Helena West, Committee Clerk (905) 791-7800, extension 4697 or at [helena.west@peelregion.ca](mailto:helena.west@peelregion.ca)

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.