

Torbay Environment & Trails Committee (TETC)

Terms of Reference

Preamble:

The Torbay Environment & Trails Committee (TETC) was originally formed in 1990 to assist with the organization and implementation of the annual community clean-up and the development of the Father Troy Trail. Additional members were encouraged to become involved when the Town took part in the Communities in Bloom project in 1997. The group involved in that project went on to meet monthly and evolved into the present Torbay Environment and Trails Committee.

The TETC is a volunteer committee of Torbay residents that brings environmental concerns to the attention of the Torbay Town Council and provides knowledge and advice regarding environment and trails issues. The Committee reports directly to Council and has a modest budget provided and administered by Council. The Committee meets on the last Wednesday of each month at the Kinsmen Centre on Bauline Line.

Mission:

The TETC acts in an advisory role to the Torbay Town Council on issues affecting the biophysical environment of Torbay, including the development, rehabilitation, construction, and maintenance of hiking trail systems within the community.

The TETC also develops and implements projects approved by the Torbay Town Council that are aimed at:

- preserving the natural environment;
- protecting the environmental health of plants and animals (including humans);
- limiting adverse environmental impacts that may result from existing and proposed land use activities;
- establishing a well-maintained network of accessible hiking trails; and
- building an environmental stewardship ethic.

The TETC investigates and acts on issues that are brought to the Committee's attention by Council members and staff, TETC members, and residents of Torbay.

Membership:

The Executive of the TETC is comprised of the following members:

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

A number of interested volunteers from the community also serve on the Committee as members at large.

The Executive of the Committee serves by appointment for the calendar year. The Executive is appointed by the previous Executive in consultation with the members of the Committee.

The Committee is comprised of volunteers who are interested in the environment of our community and trail development. Committee members have expertise in horticulture, landscaping, waste management, proposal writing, education, health and gardening. Members of the Committee are representatives on local and provincial organizations, including the following:

- Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Network
- Stewardship Association of Municipalities of Newfoundland & Labrador
- East Coast Trails Association
- Tourism Committee
- Torbay Heritage Committee

Ongoing Initiatives:

- To provide a clear sense of direction for the development of the municipal wetland, the 'Gully, possibly incorporating a walking trail;
- To develop a closer working relationship with Council;
- To work with the East Coast Trail Association to further develop the Father Troy Trail;
- To work with the Torbay Heritage Committee to develop Woodfine's Falls;
- To organize backyard habitat management seminars;
- To develop a strategic plan for offshoots of the Father Troy Trail;
- To administer the annual Property Beautification Awards;
- To organize the annual community clean up in May;
- To increase community awareness of the importance of planting trees;
- To develop and maintain a website;
- To start a gardening club in the community;
- To submit Waste Management proposals to government with emphasis on diverting wastes from disposal at the regional landfill;
- To address other environmental issues as they arise;
- To submit proposals to other funding agencies for funding for trail development;

- To publish a semi-annual newsletter.

Future plans:

With the support of Torbay Town Council, the TETC wishes to further address issues of:

- Waste Management, especially sewage and solid waste;
- Stability of the town's water supply and long range planning initiatives;
- Continuing education of the public about ATV use;
- Development of community trails.

Communications Plan:

In order to promote an effective working relationship with the Town Council, which provides significant funding and support to TETC, it is important that communication between both groups remain clear and unfettered. To this end, the following procedures are hereby adopted:

- The TETC secretary will provide Council (through the Council-TETC Liaison) with minutes and agendas for all monthly meetings as soon as they become available;
- Council will provide the TETC secretary with all regular Council meeting agendas and minutes in a timely manner;
- TETC will endeavour to have at least one of its members present at all regular Council meetings, and expects that a Council member (Council-TETC Liaison or alternate) will be present at all monthly TETC meetings;
- The TETC newsletter will be submitted to the Council-TETC Liaison for review and approval prior to publication;
- For issues that are considered by Council to be of a sensitive nature, written communication will be sent from Council to the TETC Chairperson that states the concern. This will be followed with a special meeting between TETC executives and Council to openly discuss the concerns through to their resolution.