

MINUTES OF THE OPEMICAN PARK PROJECT
LOCAL WORKING GROUP
MARCH 15th, 2010 AT 1:30 PM AT THE TOWN HALL

1. ATTENDANCE

The meeting starts at 1:40 pm

PRESENT

Danielle Gravelle,	Development Agent -Facilitator
Ray Presseault,	Representative of Committee for Free Access to Public Lands (CFAPL)
Guyline Létourneau,	President of Témiscaming-Kipawa Chamber of Commerce
Nicole Rochon,	Témiscaming Councillor
Pierre Benoit,	Témiscaming Councillor
Bob McLeod,	Representative of Committee for Free Access to Public Lands (CFAPL)
Arnaud Warolin,	Prefect
Yvon Gagnon,	President Comité municipal de Laniel
Sophie Lamarche,	Executive secretary

ABSENT:

Norman Young,	Mayor of Kipawa
Harry St-Denis,	Chief Wolf Lake First Nation

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was resolved as modified.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1ST, 2010 MEETING

It is moved by Mrs. Nicole Rochon,
resolved by Mr. Pierre Benoit

to adopt the minutes of the March 1st, 2010 meeting as modified.

3. CLARIFICATION ON ROLE OF GROUP

Local working group :

- * Collect and pool information, transmit this information to various interested groups and take note of their expectations.
- * Include local knowledge.
- * Find ways to make the park project acceptable from social and economic perspectives.

Prefect:

- * Be in a position to inform citizens of the progression of the Opemican National Park Project.
- * Report concerns of citizens and various interested groups to the rest of the Regional Working Group, but cannot represent the First Nations.

4. MAP OF TEMISCAMING

A map of the territory of Temiscaming was given to each member to show the portion of the Opemican Park study area that is located in Temiscaming. It was mentioned that Ile McKenzie & Ile aux fraises and the rest of the territory under study are located within the boundaries of Laniel and the Pointe du rocher Corbeau is in an unorganized territory of the MRC de Témiscamingue.

5. RULES IN A QUEBEC PARK

Copies of law and rules in a Quebec park were given to each member to review for next meeting. The prefect said he believes the rules can be modified to accommodate community needs.

6. CONCERNS

- a. There is no trust that the Government will take into consideration our concerns.
- b. Find parks where the people were against it in the beginning to gather information.
- c. WHITE LAKE (Lac Marsac) Temiscaming Fish and Game Club
 - Do you travel at your own discretion to Private Island?
 - Will the Fish & Game Club (private club – OSBL) be able to continue operating the way it does today? Will members need a special permit to access the island and the lake?
 - Will members have to rent boats or canoes from the Park or can they continue to use the Club's boats and motors?
- d. Loss of municipal control to develop lakefront properties
- e. Recreation – hunting, fishing – Do we need another permit to hunt and fish on Lake Kipawa and Lake Témiscamingue?
- f. LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE
 - Verify cottages resale conditions – do all cottagers own their properties?
 - Will cottage owners need to purchase access to circulate?
 - Will there be environmental rules to respect?
 - Will four-wheelers have the right to circulate?
 - Park lines are too close to the cottages lots. We should ask to move the park boundaries 1 or 2 kilometres on the other side of Hwy 101.
 - Do cottagers need to pay to access the trails?
- g. How many full time and part time jobs will be created?
- h. Ask the Government to do a current study on the economic impact of hunters, fishermen, campers who frequent Lac Marsac and compare this to the impact of a park.
- i. Ask the Government to do an economic impact study of what we will gain and what we will lose.
- j. Will property values go up or down with the park?
- k. If the park project goes through, will the hunters get another free access hunting area? Where?
- l. If the Town wants to develop, where will we be able to do it? Give us some place to develop.
- m. Why doesn't the Government let us develop the Opemican historical site according to the community's wishes?

The prefect is prepared to write a letter to the minister of Développement durable, de l'environnement et des parcs outlining these questions and concerns in order to have written answers.

7. WHITE LAKE CLUB – LAC MARSAC

D. Gravelle will invite M. Daigneault from the Club at our next meeting to hear their concerns. It was also recommended to negotiate leniency with the Government regarding environmental **regulations for** the Club.

8. STUDY ON GAINS AND LOSSES

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Town and to the MRC to ask for help to conduct an economic study.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

a) Communications

Everyone present agreed that this Group should communicate regularly with the citizens to inform them of our progress through press releases in the Contact, on the Town's web site, on Channel 13 and through emails. We will also invite citizens to send us their questions and concerns by mail or email to the Town offices.

b) Next meeting – Monday March 29 at 9:00 am

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Note: The minutes were written in English as most of the discussions were carried out in English.