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June 16, 2016

Councillor Phil Squire, Chair,
Planning and Environment Committee
City of London

Re: Planning and Environment Committee, June 20, 2016

Agenda Item 5: Trail Planning in Environmentally Significant Areas

I participated in the development of the updated *Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas* as a member of the Trails Focus Group.

In reviewing the final version of the *Guidelines* provided in your agenda package, I found an unexpected change in Table 2 and in Chapter 7. In Table 2, the minimum width for a Level 1 hiking trail is given as 1.0 metre. The Trail Standards (2012), and the earlier drafts of the updated *Guidelines* specified a minimum width of 0.5 metre. The same discrepancy occurs in the text in Section 7.1.1. Earlier drafts of the text reviewed by the Trails Focus Group provided for a minimum trail width of 0.5 metres.

The change to a 1 metre minimum was a surprise to me, as I do not recall discussing minimum trail width during the meetings of the Trails Focus Group, and I do not recall reading anything about this in the minutes of meetings. I discussed the change with two other members of the Trails Focus Group, Anita Caveney and Sandy Levin. Both individuals confirmed my recollections.

While a narrow trail may not be appropriate in every case, it is important to retain the **possibility** of a narrow (0.5 m) trail for situations where it is needed. I ask that you direct staff to change the range of width for Level 1 Trails so that it will read **0.5 m to 1.5 m**.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours truly,

David Wake

These comments supported by Anita Caveney and Sandy Levin