

Halton Place given extra time to demolish BMX track

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

The owner of Halton Place has been granted an extra 30 days to flatten the BMX track that was built on his Halton Hills property without a permit.

At its meeting in Tobermory last week the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) extended the deadline of the order to Timor Leckebusch to remove the track and restore the property at Halton Place to its original state from 60 days to 90.

The order was expected to be issued sometime this week.

The commission made the decision after hearing from Jessica Medeiros, sister of Tim DaSilva, the 20-year-old Milton man who died while building the track at Halton Place in 2006. She spoke to the Commission with the hope of having the order to remove the track deferred until the NEC's next meeting in June or ultimately to have it reconsidered.

The family and the Ontario Cycling Association (OCA) have been fighting to

keep the track intact with the goal of reopening it for a weekly race series and annual provincial series for kids. So far they have collected about 6,000 signatures on a petition.

Also speaking at the meeting was area resident Jack Pemberton, representing 24 residents who live near Halton Place who are opposed to the track.

NEC member Joan Little, who put forward the motion for the 30-day extension, said she did it so the Town of Halton Hills would "be given more time to address the issue."

Prior to the meeting, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette had written to the NEC requesting a deferral of the report dealing with the order to take down the track until the NEC's next meeting in Georgetown.

"The purpose of the deferral is two-fold, including a better opportunity for residents to express their views at a meeting closer to home, and to ask that NEC staff meet with Town staff to determine a more suitable



TIM DaSILVA

result for our community's youth and family needs for the short-term," said Bonnette in his letter.

Medeiros said Monday she feels "hopeful it's starting to go in the right direction."

They plan to meet with the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Region to garner support and discuss how they can keep the track, and work with the landowner to submit a Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment (NEPA) to allow for the track.

They are also planning to hold a Tim DaSilva BMX Awareness Day Sunday, June 8 upstairs at Mold-Masters SportsPlex from 11:06 (DaSilva's race number) a.m. to 6 p.m. X-Games gold medalist Jay Miron is expected and more details are to come. For more information visit www.timdasilvabmx.com.

With the extra time, Megan Krueger of Halton Place said they are looking into filing a NEPA to allow the track as a permitted use on the property.

Krueger said they hope they will be successful.

"We're going into it trying to be as optimistic as possible," said Krueger.

NEC member Little said under the plan the BMX track isn't allowed.

Allan Elgar, another NEC member, also stressed the track is not an allowed use on the property.

"Whether a plan amendment will be successful, I don't know," said Little.

She said the cyclists "are caught because the landowner has had so many violations on that property."

"I feel sorry for the family but I also have to uphold the plan. The whole thing was unnecessary," said Little.

"There is no doubt that the applicant knew there would have had to have been a permit, but DaSilva may not have known. That's the tragedy," said Little.

The family is asking for support from the community to help convince the NEC to grant the NEPA.

They ask for emails and letters of support be sent to bmxb@ontariocycling.org.

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