

**From:** farr west  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 2:36 PM  
**To:** Regional Clerk <[ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca](mailto:ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca)>  
**Subject:** Council Meeting Feb 24 Managing Dogs in YRF

Please attach the following to the agenda item: Report of the Commissioner of Environmental Services, the Amendment to Management Plan for the York Regional Forest – Managing Dogs in the York Regional Forest:

I still maintain that this proposal is an overreaction. The satisfaction rating of 8/10 on the surveys, plus the majority giving a preference for pre-Covid rules is evidence of this.

The number of incidents does not justify the new rule. On February 10, Commissioner Mahoney responded 'non zero' when asked for the number of dog related incidents. This is the information she should have provided (from James Lane):

*Over the last several years, the Region has been made aware of three serious incidents involving off-leash dogs in the Regional Forest and one incident in an adjoining conservation area. We have provided a brief description of each incident below:*

- 2021 - a dog was fatality (sic) attacked at the Hollidge Tract*
- 2021 - a dog was fatality (sic) attacked at the Hall Tract*
- 2019 - a rider was ejected off their horse at the North tract when an aggressive dog interacted with the rider's horse*
- 2021 - a dog was fatality (sic) attacked at the Whitchurch Conservation Area, an access point to the Robinson Tract*

*In addition to these serious incidents, the Region has received 120 complaints since 2015 about dogs in the York Regional Forest, including aggressive dogs (Hollidge, Eldred King Woodlands, Clarke, Porritt and Robinson Tracts) and off-leash complaints (multiple forest tracts).*

According to staff, there were 600 000 forest visits in 2018. Multiply that by 6 (2015 - 2021) and the number of alleged incidents is shown to be extremely low.

This proposal is an over-reaction and does not reflect the wishes of the vast majority of forest users. Other, non-confrontational, courses of action such as education are available, but have not been considered. This proposal should be rejected.

Thank you,

Angela Farr