

## **Minutes of Gananoque Trees & Trials Committee:**

April 21, 2016 Town Hall Board Room 9:15 am

**Present:** Peter Murray (Chair), Doug Bickerton (Secr), Dwayne Fletcher(Council) and Angus Ferguson.

**Guests:** None.

**Regrets:** Rick Dunn, John Cornish and Jim Garrah.

**Motion:** Doug & Dwayne: That the minutes for the meeting of March 17 be accepted. Carried.

**Motion:** Angus and Dwayne: That the Agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

**Health and Safety Concerns:** None.

**Pecuniary Interest / Conflict of Interest:** None.

Peter reviewed general progress and a couple of developments and issues that are dealt with below.

### **Trails:**

1. ATV Trail Proposal: A copy of a letter was received, written by Mike Choine in response to a letter by Kelly Shipclark requesting a map of their proposed ATV Trail. The map (airphoto) was reviewed as to suitability of the project from the Gananoque Trail perspective.

The Trails Committee recommends:

a) That ATV's cannot access any part of the footpath of the Gananoque Trails. This is for safety and insurance reasons as the Town's insurer originally stated that a trail can be used either for walking and cycling or for motorized travel, but not both. Speed Limits in these situations don't work because there cannot be effective enforcement.

b) That the ATV Trail cannot be any closer than 100 metres to the Gananoque Trail. This means, referring to Mike Choine's map, that where the green marked ATV trail comes south along the sewer outfall line at the east side of the Town's property behind the Recreation Centre, the ATV Trail will have to cross eastward onto the Knotek property at a point farther north. The only exception to this 100 metre allowance would be at south side of the 401 bridge over the Gananoque River where the green trail comes under Highway 401 on the old railbed. This Committee considers that the Gananoque Trail effectively ends where the north end of the Narrows Loop emerges onto the old railbed. At this place, the ATV Trail must stay at least 15 metres away from that point, ie the north corner of the footbridge.

Note: On April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016, the Secretary personally inspected the site and confirmed what we saw on the map (air photo), that 15 metres (50 feet) should be sufficient separation at this point to safely satisfy the needs of both Trails' users.

c) That **Dwayne** should go with Greg Potvin to inspect the ATV route behind the Home Hardware land along the South fenceline of 401 as far as the sewer outfall line. This area is wet.

2. Dissolution of the Wildwood Trail:

It is noted that we have finally heard from Pedro Trivis. He has requested that we abandon and close the Wildwood Trail across his property and that we should remove all signs at the road

immediately and remove the other signs as soon as practical. He has allowed us to wait until the summer to remove any of the bridges and boardwalks.

- a) The signs at the road have been removed and a "Trail Closed" sign has been installed. There have been some of the plastic trail marker signs removed, but these were installed with Ardox nails and they don't come out easily. They will require a crow bar.
- b) We have permission to remove the boardwalks and bridges in the summer. We should upend these soon and stand them against nearby trees to help dry them out for a lighter load to remove.
- c) We'll wait until next meeting to decide how best to remove the boardwalks etc.
- d) Our Gananoque Trail Maps are being marked, "Permanently Closed", with a sticker applied to each map.

### 3. The Trail Post at the North end of the Snappers Loop:

This sign post must be moved to the relocated trail entry point. The Committee will meet at the site for a project at 8:00 am on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. **Doug** will get the necessary equipment and a bag of concrete mix.

### 4. Date for Chip Spreading near the Union Gas meter station:

This is best done before the bugs. **Peter** will check with John MacLeod about the use of the ATV and trailer and the potential for a JCP Crew to help.

5. "Trail Closed, March 31, 2016" notices were posted on the privately owned sections of the Trail on March 30 and were removed on April 1. Photos were taken as usual.

Doug noted that the reason for this action is to protect the landowners' rights from future claims of squatters' rights. It really doesn't matter whether the public obeys the signs. The important thing is to display them. It was noted that some of the signs this year were torn down and thrown into the bushes by the morning of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Trees:

1. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) treatment is due this year. Tree Canada reports that we will be eligible for another lot of TreeAzin, as in 2014, but they weren't specific as to the amount.

### 2. Planting Program for this spring:

We will have 15 trees planted by the Works Department. **Peter** and **Doug** are working on the species specification and location identification.

3. Pitch Pines around the Town have been "sulphured" for acidification and will need pruning in most locations for park access (lawnmowers) and for crown elevation.

4. Pitch Pines at the Gananoque Cemetery are to be moved. **Doug** will arrange this.

**Next Meeting:** At the call of the Chairman

Doug Bickerton, Secretary April 21, 2016