

TOWN OF GANANOQUE  
Trails and Urban Forest Committee Minutes  
February 12, 2014 at Works Board Room 9:05 am

---

**Present:** Peter Murray (Chair), John Cornish, Jim Garrah, John MacLeod, Doug Bickerton (Sec), Bill Sheppard and Wayne Lowrie (Gananoque Reporter). Regrets: Joe Watkins

The purpose of this meeting is to further the long range planning and goal setting for sustainability of the Gananoque Trails System and the Urban Forest.

Health and Safety Concerns: None.

Pecuniary Interest / Conflict of Interest: None.

**Motion:** John C and Bill: That the Agenda be amended to move the "trees" to the top to accommodate Wayne Lowrie of the Gananoque Reporter who expressed an interest in our discussion about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Carried.

**Motion:** Bill and John M: That the minutes of the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.

**Trees (Urban Forest):**

a) **Emerald Ash Borer:** We reviewed the EAB situation for Wayne, our concern and our proposal to Council so that he can write an article. Our submission to Council was discussed. Sue Smith has included \$8,500.00 in her 2014 budget for the purpose of inoculating 28 large, healthy ash trees in the street allowances and parks in Gananoque. It was decided that Doug and Peter should go to the budget meeting when this is discussed in case Council has questions. Doug will provide a hardcopy montage of 6 to 10 of our selected ash trees for Council to see.

b) **Review of Long Term Strategy:**

- Should we promote an official "Tree Removal Policy" for privately owned trees in Gananoque?
- Most cities have a policy limiting or prohibiting the removal of private trees beyond a certain diameter without approval of the municipal arborist.
- Trees, whether public or private, are of benefit to all the residents of Gananoque.
- Discussion took place about how many trees we should be planting each year and the real cost of planting and maintaining a tree. We are currently budgeted for planting about 15 trees each year. This is slightly more than the current removal rate of older trees in Gananoque, excluding the effects of the recent ice storm in December 2013.

**Trails:**

a) **Status of Current Funding:**

Sue Smith has developed a "task related" record and planning schedule, which should work

well. 80 Hours of time is in the Parks and Recreation budget for trail maintenance.

– The committee would like the trails to be a scheduled job rather than be treated as an “extra” task to be done after the other work is all caught up. This is particularly the case for grass cutting and brush trimming.

b) Long Term Trail Strategy:

1. Maintenance and Monitoring:

Summary: The committee feels that the Town should embrace the Trail System and dedicate adequate resources to enhance and grow the Trail System for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Details discussed: – The committee feels that we could make use of the youths in the YIPI Program to monitor the Trails on a weekly basis and report any maintenance issues to the Parks and Recreation Dept.

– Maintenance, monitoring and planning of the Trails should be treated the same as other recreational facilities like playgrounds, the ball park or Joel Stone Park / Beach. There should be a budget to suit.

– This committee should continue in an advisory role and maintain our mandate to improve the Trails. But, we won't be able to be as involved in the day to day planning and maintenance of the Trails. We should continue to seek interested younger members for this Committee.

– Bill suggested that we look into placing smaller cans (20 litre pails) as garbage cans with a secure lid that has a 3' or 3.5 " hole in the top. This might be a deterrent to people who stuff the big cans with household garbage. The committee wants to investigate this.

2. Enhancement and Accessibility: We can promote :

- More story-boards of significance.
- Improvements to the Trail surface, wood chips, stone chips etc.
- Improvements to accessibility.

3. Events:

We can promote:

- Geocaching - teach young people and families about the sport.
- Run an event to attract experienced geocachers from other areas.
- We should commit to 2 or 3 events each year to promote the use of the Trails.
- Running Events using the Trails System.
- 'Around-the-Town' hiking events.
- Canoe and Kayak Events using the Gananoque River Trail.
- Terry Fox Run could use the Lions Loop for part of their cancer walk.

There was general discussion on what type of document we wished to prepare for presentation to Council promoting the sustainability of maintenance and development of both the trails and the urban forest. The chairman volunteered to take a crack at a draft paper for the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 9:00 am at the Works Dept. boardroom. Doug Bickerton, Secretary Feb 12, 2014

Draft