

TOWN OF GANANOQUE
Trails & Urban Forest Committee
Minutes for January 15, 2014
Held at Public Works Board Room 9:05 am

Present: Peter Murray (Chair), John MacLeod, John Cornish, Doug Bickerton (Sec), Jim Garrah, Joe Watkins, Bill Sheppard and Anne-Marie Koiner (Doors Open Ontario).
Absent: Rick Dunn.

Motion: John C and Bill: That the Agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

Motion: John C and Peter. That the minutes of the November 20th meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the successes and concerns of the past year and to set some goals for the next year, being the last year of the mandate of this Committee as constituted by the present Council. As well, we want to explore some long term objectives toward the sustainability of the Gananoque Trails system

Trails:

The Trails of Gananoque are now a mature natural asset for passive recreation by the residents of Gananoque and a feature for the tourists who come to visit. The Trails are popular.

We must allow for future maintenance and support of the Trails by laying out the needs of the Trails for future sustainability, so that subsequent Councils will have a reference point as to the need to maintain and develop this asset, which could someday become an "out of sight out of mind" resource and be allowed to deteriorate.

Trails, by their nature, are never finished. There is always a little improvement here or there that should have some attention. Our Trails should be improved as time and circumstance dictates. Other than the "Wildwood Trail", which is a true "hiking trail", the Gananoque Trails should move toward being a set of "walking trails " by improving the trail surface and routing, moving toward more "accessibility" and providing small conveniences like benches and picnic tables. For instance, the Gananoque Trails may move from more and more wood chips to stone dust and may even someday be hard surfaced for accessibility. Money and public sentiment will be the determining factors.

The existing volunteer Committee has a passion and a vibrancy that we must strive to maintain. We need to encourage interested new people to join the Committee. We will always need a member of Council on our Committee and possibly a member of the Town staff as well. We have an excellent working relationship with the Town staff and we must work to maintain that. We should develop a "Sustainability Plan" as a Town approved document. We could seek the advice of the Town's Chief Administrative Officer on the framework of such a plan to make it into a long term viable document.

The Sustainability Plan would include:

1. Maintenance and monitoring
2. Enhancements and accessibility
3. Events involving the Trails
4. Marketing, to encourage people to use the Trails

- 5. Development, short and long term
- 6. Budget

Trees:

The same principles as in the above Trails plan seem to apply very well to the Trees of Gananoque.

Members are requested to bring their input, **preferably in writing**, on each of these 6 headings under the Sustainability Plan **for both trails and trees separately**. The idea is to establish a consensus of action under each heading.

Doors Open Note: Anne-Marie pointed out that the Doors Open / Trails Open deadline for a program framework is February 28th, in order to get the advertising ready. We gave her all the information currently needed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 9:00 am at the Works Dept. boardroom.