

TOWN OF GANANOQUE

Trails & Urban Forest Advisory Committee

June 5, 2012 @ 8:35 am at Town Hall Boardroom.

Present: Peter Murray (Chair), Doug Bickerton (Sec), Rick Dunn, Jim Garrah, John Cornish and Bill Sheppard (Council).

Minutes of the Meeting of May 1, 2011 were reviewed:

Motion: by Bill and Rick: That the minutes of May 1, 2012 be accepted.

Trails:

Trail Condition updates have been received and action has been taken as needed.

Status of the Hwy 401 fence:

No contractor has yet responded to the request for a bid. One contractor from Brockville saw the sight from across the river and left, without comment. The two contractors from Kingston that were recommended by MTO didn't respond but will be contacted to see if they are interested. Bill feels we should re-post the tender request.

John Cornish reviewed the current status of the Provincial Wildlife Area (PWA) Trails. It is becoming very difficult to maintain the trails there, owing to vigorous growth, some vandalism to our trail markers there and the fact that we don't have enough help to clear the trails.

Motion: by John C and Rick: That the operations pertaining to the 401 underpass, including the fence installation, be suspended pending further investigation.

Much discussion ensued. There are many issues involved here, not the least of which is spending the Town's money for the fence required by the MTO.

Motion: by Jim and Bill: That the motion on the table referring to the Hwy 401 Bridge be deferred to the next meeting of the Trails and Trees Committee. Carried.

Brochure of the Gananoque Trails:

The Chamber of Commerce office appears to have run out of the brochure copies again. The committee decided to delegate the issue to a subcommittee of Peter, John MacLeod and Rick to update the master and have 2500 printed.

Work on the Trails by JCP Crew:

The help from the JCP Crew appears to be coming to an end effective June 30th. We want them to install our new signs. The stone steps behind Baldree's may not be practical. With federal

budget cutbacks, this may be the end of very valuable assistance provided by John Macleod and the fellows from the JCP.

The Committee wishes to thank the present crew and will look into creating two framed certificates of appreciation for Lee and Ted.

High School involvement in our Committee: We decided to include 2 students to be chosen by the school to be part of our committee for next September.

Trees:

– The Emerald Ash Borer Conference at Rideau Valley Conservation Authority will be attended by Peter, Doug and Bill. We need to find out what the best approach is to preserve our ash trees if this is practical. We have to start with an ash assessment for presentation to Council. We will include larger ash trees on both public and private lands.

– Watering of existing trees: Rick Cooper will be asked to start watering the new trees in the arboretum and the ones that were planted last fall.

– Doug reported that two of our street trees have been cut down at 199 Pine Street and 298 Sydenham Street. The Works Department didn't have any notification of this. He will investigate what happened and report back.

– Doug reports that three of the Pitch Pines in Confederation Park are looking very sick. A soil test has proven that this sandy soil is quite alkaline, having a pH above 8. He recommends an application of granular soil acidifier to the area and continued monitoring.

Motion: by Bill and John C: That we spend up to \$100.00 to acidify the soil around the Pitch Pines in Confederation Park. Carried. .

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 8:30am Town Hall.

Signed by: Peter Murray, Chair.
Doug Bickerton, Secretary