

TOWN OF GANANOQUE

Minutes of Trees & Trails Advisory Committee for July 16, 2015
Town Hall Board Room 9:05 am

Present: Peter Murray (Chair), Angus Ferguson, Dwayne Fletcher (Council), Jim Garrah, Doug Bickerton (Sec), John Cornish (later).

Regrets: Rick Dunn

Motion: Jim and Angus: That the Agenda be accepted as presented.

- Health and Safety Concerns: We will talk about the current tick situation.
- Accessibility: If we have any concerns with respect to Trails, we should see Brian Brooks.
- We should apply stone dust and pack it on the section of the C&A trail where the course crushed rock was placed in the washout area. The present surface is too difficult for a wheelchair. **Peter** will see Brian Brooks.
- **Dwayne** will look into a Facebook Page and take action if appropriate
- The trail behind Baldrees where the stone steps were vandalised a few years ago, should be fixed.. **Doug** will look at this for next meeting.

Pecuniary Interest / Conflict of Interest: None.

Trails:

1. Jim has been sending reports about condition and has been talking to Sue.
2. Tick signs were installed by Doug at the Trailhead and behind Baldree's store. Jim has installed the small waterproof "Be Tick Aware" markers, that the committee bought.
3. Two broken boards on the flat bridge on the McLean Loop are now replaced.
4. The Trail Committee recommends a trail chipping program on the damp areas of the Rogers Loop and the McLean Loop, together with brushing on the sides of the trails as they are growing in. We must be mindful of the Deer Tick problem - a metre of clearance on each side of the track is recommended.
5. The Wildwood Trail: Pedro (the land owner), recently expelled the Town employees from his property when they were doing trail work. This may be as a result of other, apparently unrelated, problems that Pedro seems to be having with the Town. **Jim** will call Pedro again and request that the "Parks Staff" be allowed to do minor trail maintenance.
6. Lookout Accessibility Project : The wood will cost \$2731.73. Mike Tennant will have a quote for the steel next week. (Peter has the old quote for steel at \$3700+)
Discussion was deferred to next meeting when we'll have more information.
7. Ontario Trails Council newsletter will be forwarded to T&T members except for John Cornish and John MacLeod who don't need them.

Trees: (Urban Forest)

1. Tree Canada / TD Bank offer of small trees: We are not in a position to move ahead with large numbers of small pot-stock on short notice. **Peter** will see if we can have this program delayed until the spring of 2016 which would be better for planting anyway.
2. **Peter and Jim** will try to resolve the issue of Steel Workers Park tree planting.
3. We should encourage the Town to set up a program for removal of dead and/or dying ash trees. **Peter** will draft a report which, when approved, can be presented to Council. He will arrange a meeting with the Public Works Director, Chris Wagar, to discuss the EAB ash tree removal and replacement plan and the Steel Workers Park problem.
4. We are moving ahead with the Richardson memorial tree. The plaque is cast and ready to install.
- 5 **Doug** will investigate Home Hardware (Mark Cullen) offer for "free" trees for municipal under planting. Trees are to be picked up in Ottawa for a tax receipt of \$200.00 each.
6. 31 Church Street: Homeowner request is to cut down an ash tree that is not yet showing signs of EAB infection. The committee will stay with its basic policy of not removing ash trees until they show significant signs of EAB deterioration. Removal of pre-symptom ash trees in Ottawa and Toronto has lead to a public outcry, that we want to avoid. However, as this homeowner requests it, we will monitor this tree and try to remove it as soon as the signs appear. In this case there does not seem to be a need to under plant as there are other trees nearby. We will use this opportunity to put in another tree somewhere else.

Next Meeting: Board Room, Town Hall, Thursday, August 13, 2015 , 09:00 .

Doug Bickerton, Secretary July 16 , 2014