

Town of Gananoque

Trails and Trees Advisory Committee Minutes for June 15, 2015 Held at ES Boardroom, 340 Herbert St.

Present: Rick Dunn, Peter Murray, Doug Bickerton, Dwayne Fletcher, Jim Garrah, John Cornish, Angus Ferguson

Guests: Sue Smith, Pam Hart, Bob Gibbons.

Combined Items:

Peter Murray, Chair welcomed the somewhat 20 citizen delegation from the Commodore, Church St. and Princess St. area.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes were amended to correct a misspelled name and then moved to accept the amended minutes of May 13th by Rick Dunn and seconded by Doug Bickerton. Carried.

Delegation

Pam Hart introduced Bob Gibbons as presenter and Bob commenced to outline the steps the citizen group had taken to this point. The main point is that the trees as they mature and get larger will have a negative impact on their property values and their enjoyment of their property. Bob then presented photos to illustrate the views from different properties as well as views from old post cards and emphasized the future issues associated with growth.

Pam Hart then spoke to a list of suggestions that the citizen committee would like to submit for consideration. 1) Formally request that no more trees be planted along the Bay Road; 2) Request that our committee approve the removal of the 3 existing crab trees and, perhaps locate them somewhere else; 3) Request that the Town trim the existing trees such that the crown will not exceed a desired height; 4) Request that when a new plan is being considered for the Bay Road area that the citizens be involved. Pam also indicated that their next step is to take a similar presentation to Town Council July 7th. She also invited the T/T committee to visit the sites to assess the issues for themselves. Jim Garrah encouraged the group to speak to council as press coverage will enable all citizens to be engaged thus one could assess what the community feels about their issues. Angus Ferguson spoke to the benefit of trees along the shore line for people to seek shade. Chair Peter thanked the delegation and suggested that we move on other items on the agenda.

Trails:

Peter outlined the budget indicating that we have approximately \$10,000 remaining.

A review of the work carried out by Sue's team commenced. All were pleased with her crews work and how the liaison between our committee and the Town was going. Minor issues were reviewed and the committee emphasized the need to maintain the trail width and keeping the grass areas cut due to the tick issue.

A review of the signage and our accountability to the public re: the Tick issue settled on some new signage around the trail which Jim has agreed to have made locally and then put up across the trail network. These additional signs are designed to keep hiker awareness up so that the tick issue is not forgotten after commencing a specific trail. The large tick information signs supplied by the Health Unit will be placed at the Trail head and at the Baldree entrance. Doug to mount them.

Peter spoke to the need of a table and manpower for June 27th at the Rib Fest.

Peter then spoke to the fact that we had lost monies via FAB which we had earmarked for the lookout project. The discussion centered on what the location should be, whether or not we should abandon this project or not, and whether or not the old estimates are correct. Peter will get an up-to-date estimate for the next meeting.

Trees:

Doug reported that there at least a dozen trees showing signs of EAB infestation with others most likely infected but not yet showing. Doug again stressed the need for eventual removal of the infected trees and the need for under planting at a suggested cost of around \$350 each location. Peter is working on locating stored information on sample tree removal by-laws for future deliberation

Doug reported that plaques for the dedication trees have been ordered with some arriving ready to install. Next meeting Thursday July 16th, 9 o'clock at the Town Hall.