

TOWN OF GANANOQUE
Trails and Urban Forest Committee Minutes
For November 19, 2014
Held at PW Boardroom at 09:00 AM

Members Present: Rick Dunn, Peter Murray, Bill Sheppard, John Cornish, Joe
Watkins, Doug Bickerton,
Regrets: Jim Garrah, John MacLeod

The **acceptance of the minutes** of October 2014 were moved by Rick and seconded by Bill.
Carried

OPENING REMARKS

Our Chair Peter Murray reminded all of the fact that this body will be newly appointed in the New Year and to watch for advertisements asking for nominations. Peter will run but will be declining the Chair position

REPORTS

Trails:

Chair Peter elaborated on his conversations with the FAB re: our application for funds for the lookout on the bridge. Only 19% of asked-for monies (\$279,000) for all FAB applications were awarded. Peter indicated that the FAB was offering to set aside our roughly \$950 in their account for further use and possible increase if several of the project submission groups decline their 19% of funds. Peter was given the go-ahead to direct them to set aside the \$950 until the New Year. Bill indicated that perhaps grant monies might be successful to make up the shortfall as well as donations say from Home Hardware for the lumber. John C indicated that there was potential to establish a new loop at the 401 end (of the Wildwood Trail which would be on public land. This is not tough work and John indicated that a "Private Property" sign should be placed on the fence. Peter reviewed the draft of his report to council for the period 2011-2014. It was moved by Doug and seconded by John C that the report draft be approved as amended, Carried. Doug described his work cementing in 1 sign on the McLean property previously vandalized and 1 new one on River St. It was reported that the Town moved the bridge at the end of Arthur Street to cross a creek connecting to Grass hoper Park and did a very good job. The financial year-end was reviewed. The request to process the invoice for trees (to be installed in the spring) was turned down but the Treasurer indicated that our allotment for 2015 can be increased by that amount. A letter will be drafted asking that the Treasurer to place our 2014 surplus (approx. \$3000) into a capital account for applying to the lookout project. Discussion ensued about the merit of moving the monies which the Forestry committee has in the bank to our committee's budget next year. It could be the earmarked to Arboretum enhancements.

Trees:

Sue was pursuing with CEO Small the likelihood of soil additions on the Arboretum property. Joe will follow up on this topic. Doug and Peter are supervising the JCP work crew tree trimming in the north end. Weather in a week or should improve for additional work. Peter declared that his task with the next appointed committee will be to complete a strategic operational plan for the town for the urban forest. Mr. Peter Vandenbrink (██████████) operational manager of the Ventures Home has agreed to purchase at least 1 tree to replace the trees removed due to construction. He is to be contacted in early 2015.

Matters pending for the new committee:

- Follow up with the FAB re: \$950 in reserve
- Keep the lookout project alive by seeking sponsorship monies.
- Add a loop to Wildwood.
- Add \$3000 to 2015 budget for work postponed re: tree planting and purchasing
- Marshall the transfer of the Urban Forestry monies to the Town
- Follow up with soil additions in the Arboretum.
- Follow up with Ventures property tree purchase and planting

The meeting ended with an enthusiastic vote of appreciation to our Chair Peter Murray for the leadership and devotion to this committee over this last term of council.

Next meeting: TBA.....9 AM at the Works meeting room.