

TOWN OF GANANOQUE

Trails and Urban Forest Committee

Minutes for October 15, 2014 Public Works - Board Room

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

Regrets: Jim Garrah

Guests: Bob Gibbons, Sue Smith

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of June 2014 were moved by Rick and seconded by Bill. Carried

DELEGATION

Bob Gibbons was requested to address the committee and he, via photo graphs, elaborated on his main concern re: potential future tree height on Bay Road and the resulting loss of water view. After a thorough discussion it was decided to postpone any recommendations to council due to the fact that the committee was at the end of their appointed term and that this item should be addressed by the new committee in 2015.

REPORTS

Trails:

Chair Peter welcomed Sue Smith to review trail maintenance over the past summer. Peter indicated that unfortunately Jim, who was the main contact for the committee with Sue, was absent and some issues might not surface. Sue indicated that some confusion had occurred when she had assumed that the JCP work crew had taken over maintenance of the trails. Sue indicated that, hopefully, one of the trail maintainers would be employed again next year and provide continuity. It was agreed as to the usefulness of members of the trails committee providing an orientation to the 2015 assigned workers including hands-on experience walking the trails and pointing out what maintenance is expected. Sue indicated that the system worked using one contact person. Our operating plan will be presented by Sue after the new council is formed.

Peter indicated that he has followed up on the grant application for the ramp on the railway bridge and that the application has not been either accepted or rejected. Peter indicated that alternative funding might be available from the Rotary and other service clubs. It was moved by Joe and seconded by Bill that the \$2500 remaining in the budget be earmarked for materials and supplies for the building of the ramp. Carried.

The committee then discussed the Open House/Open Trails project. Peter had 12 for the Sunday historical walk while Doug had 6 for the Saturday trail walk. Others indicated that the manning of the table is good public relations. It was recommended that the project be repeated in 2015.

It was determined that we are out of trail brochures and it was moved by John C. and seconded by Joe that brochures be ordered up to a cost of \$500. Carried.

Trees:

When the topic of the EAB surplus was discussed, Sue indicated that the committee can proceed to contract the planting of trees to use up the \$2800 surplus. She must be invoiced before the end of December. If not planted in 2014, the invoice must clearly indicate it includes planting in the spring of 2015. After discussing the Arboretum future plans Joe volunteered to spearhead getting approval from the MOE to add additional soil cap to enable additional tree planting and repair of dead trees.

John MacLeod indicated that his JCP crew will be scheduling town tree pruning starting the week of November 10th for 2 weeks. Doug proposed that Chris McKay be engaged to move some pitch pines from the nursery. It was reported that the Ventures house at the corner of William and Brock has agreed to some monies or the purchase of trees as a result of the tree removal for foundation repair on the residence.

Next meeting: November 19th @ 9 AM at the Works meeting room.