

TOWN OF GANANOQUE

Urban Forest and Trails Committee

Minutes for July 24, 2013

Held at Public Works Boardroom at 665 Charles St

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

Minute Adoption

The acceptance of the minutes of the June 12, 2013 were moved by Bill and seconded by Doug. Carried

TRAILS

Trail Status:

A review of Jim's trail report took place. He has discussed with Sue and due to the latest heat wave and the abundance of deer flies, some trail work by the town had been postponed but she indicates will be resumed. A discussion around the viewing stand on the rail bridge near King Street took place. A possible longer viewing stand with 1 in 12 ramps is a future possibility.

JCP work crew:

All welcomed the announcement from John M that he was successful in getting funding for a 6 men plus supervisor for 6 months. After discussion no further trail initiatives will take place but it is proposed that John's crew could help substantially with chipping current trails, installing the board walk on the wild wood trail and especially advancing the pruning program requiring light manual saw work or loppers. Such a project as the park on either side of the Kinsmen hall was proposed as meeting these criteria.

Rick will follow up with John re: the Hampton Heights project.

Signage project:

The U R here signage project was discussed as to the difficulty with applying a protective plastic protection. Doug will experiment with drilling the holes thru the plastic sample.

Trails open event September 28/29:

This was discussed including the merits of our involvement. This year is committed! Various approaches were discussed re: getting better attendance at this event. The conclusion being that a "sandwich" board will be dusted off by Bill to be located at trail head. As well, Peter will look at getting possible promotional materials to be located at each site on the Open Door route.

Other business:

- Local drop-in center for kids will be hiking some of our trails
- Brochure box best location at Marina under new sign.
- Trail brochure modifications were reviewed and it was moved by Bill and seconded by John that we order 5000.
- Jim will distribute some of the last current brochures to the local B & B
- Garbage (Trail) bags will be delivered to the Marina.

TREES

Ash Tree inventory:

The press release from Kingston distributed to the committee by Jim was discussed. Bill indicated that he had reported to council re; the issues and possible solutions. At the August 13th perhaps they should be encouraged to commit to action. Budget should be approved this year for implementation in spring 2014. Discussion re: various remedies took place with each member sharing their research.

Memorial trees:

The 4 memorial trees will receive concrete as Doug and Peter will cast the cement bases today.

The OLG tree planting in nursery

The OLG staff planted a number of “whips” and contributed \$90.00. There were some complaints that came to Town with our chair Peter responding to the letter.

Other business:

- Discussion took place around 2013 proposed tree plantings, the type and the BIA discussion. Our recommendation for the BIA is the Japanese Lilac or Little leaf linden for the main shopping block while, for the urban scape, either Maple or Basswood is appropriate.
- Following Peter’s conformation that he wants to, it was discussed and agreed by all to add Ray Wilson to our distribution list for information on our deliberations. Bill Denison was also to be approached. (Rick has done so and it is too early to get him on the list)
- The Town contractor for high-up trimming (Timber Tree Service out of Joyceville) indicated that the summer was a down time and would welcome trimming work in Gananoque.

Next meeting August 28th @ 9 AM at the Works meeting room.