

TOWN OF GANANOQUE

Minutes of the Urban Forest and Trails Committee

Wednesday October 17, 2012

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

Location: Public Works board room. 08:30

TRAILS AGENDA:

The acceptance of the minutes of the September, 2012 were moved by Rick and seconded by Jim. Carried

Meeting with Rick Cooper and Sue Smith:

The summary of the meeting was reviewed and it was noted that Sue requires a summary of the work required on the trails starting in May. As well, Rick needs more information. Jim and Rick will proceed to map the trail maintenance portion while Peter and Doug will assemble information re: Tree maintenance. The 1st of November was mentioned as the deadline.

GSS Offer:

John M outlined the nature of the inquiry he received from Mr. Running at GSS. The proposal involves the school receiving up to \$10,000 from a fund set up by Lowes Hardware and Skills Canada. The proposal, if it proceeds, will see grades 7 to 12 students taking on projects associated with our trails such as building Picnic tables, benches, bird houses, etc.

Signage project:

A subcommittee has been reviewing possible signage for the trails as a result of a conversation with Pam Staples at our last meeting. Peter, Jim and Rick have a list of possible 6 signs and will meet with Pam to discuss design issues.

Opening of Wildwood trail:

John and Jim will attempt to add directional signs and Rick and Doug will install trail head signs. The opening will be made official in the spring. In the meantime we will monitor vandalism activities.

Information Signs:

A discussion took place over the early draft signs provided by Pam. Peter introduced various signage possibilities and he will communicate our agreed approach to Pam so that she could make another draft sign for the next meeting. Jim, Rick and Peter to meet with Pam, possibly on Oct 24.

Repairing signs:

The two signs on Snappers Bridge were removed and new ones are ordered Doug and Peter will install. Peter introduced the stick-on logo replacements for the faded ones on current signs. They cost \$10 each.

Trail maintenance and comments from recent Open Trail tours:

Doug's notes re: trail maintenance were reviewed as well as any comments received from the tours. Rick related the interest of a local to get involved with Geo-caching. John M indicated that John Cooke has provided courses in the past. It was also recognized that Ray Wilson was very involved with this and might be a mentor as well. Rick will follow up on this as all agreed that this might increase traffic on the trails.

Disabilities orientation

The chair reminded members that they should complete on the on-line survey forwarded by the Town before the end of October.

TREES AGENDA:

OLG contacts:

Peter indicated that OLG wants to get involved in planting trees in Gananoque. Peter will meet with them and see what can be worked out.

Tree removal complaint:

Jim outlined a complaint received from a home owner as a result of a tree removal. Peter reviewed how we got involved and asked for advice. After discussion it was agreed that a more formal process, perhaps involving council, would lead to a better warning to citizens.

Ash Tree survey:

One half to 2/3 of the Town has been surveyed. Peter reviewed the actions plan drafted for Hamilton..

Arboretum plaques:

Doug outlined work done to date as well as the style which we are using for the "dedicated" trees.

Gravenhurst Tree planting and care guide:

Peter outlined that he had a copy of the above and will forward to us for review. He plans to work on the above for Gananoque over the winter as it appears to be very comprehensive.

Other business:

Doug spoke of vandalism to several local trees from a hatchet.

Doug, Jim and Rick would welcome circulation of the Ontario Trails electronic newsletter.

Next meeting. TBA