

TOWN OF GANANOQUE

Trees & Trails Committee Minutes for August 15, 2012 at 8:35 am

Present: Peter Murray (Chair), Doug Bickerton (Sec), Rick Dunn, Jim Garrah, John Cornish, John MacLeod, Bill Sheppard (Council) and Pam Staples

Pam Staples has a project concerning signage and there is enough money in her budget for several good signs on the Gananoque Trails. There is some "Creson" sign board left from another project that we can use.

Also, Pam presented an idea to place mailboxes in key locations around Town to distribute our Trail maps. We can try two boxes and see what happens.

Rick, Jim and Peter will form a subcommittee to look into locations for "story board" signs and for two mailboxes for the maps.

Trail Maintenance, Plan for ongoing work: We must set up a plan for Council to approve by which a person (probably a student, next summer) can be hired to patrol the Trails, clear brush and do light pruning on our trees. We will have a separate meeting to create a plan in September. Ideally this might be a summer student from a school of forestry or horticulture.

Rick will assemble the information for that meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of July 3, 2012 were circulated:

Motion: by Rick, Sec by Jim: That the minutes of July 3, 2012 be accepted. Carried.

Business Arising from the July Minutes: There was none.

Trails:

The Hetu request was covered by Bill. This issue has now been resolved by a vote at the last Council meeting.

Biosphere Trails Council Representative: John Cornish commented on the excellent work of the Trails Council. It would be advisable to have a Gananoque Council member as our representative. **Motion:** John Cornish nominated Bill Sheppard to fill this position. Sec by Rick. Bill accepted. Carried.

Peter reviewed the history and purpose of the Trails Council. He will forward a letter to Council recommending the appointment by way of Bonnie Dingwall.

Trails Maintenance: We'll have a special meeting about this on September 18th.

Jim reported that the damaged section of the Trail behind the Rec Centre (owing to the work on the Bike Park) has been fixed and crushed stone has been added.

Doors Open and Historical Handout: (September 29 & 30)

Peter draughted a handout. The committee agrees with the content.

Trail Fund Raiser: Bill reported that on July 29th a successful "I Ran Gan" event was held. Over 200 people registered. Good comments were received from the participants. The money raised will go to the Thousand Islands and Willowtree Daycare Centres.

New Business:

Sign Problem on Beaver Road: John C. reports that the trail is in good shape. Someone has been removing the blue flagging tape. John suggests either going to a paint mark on the trees or nailed on plastic signs.

Motion: by John Cornish, sec by Jim: That we nail up some plastic signs and see what happens in a month. Carried.

Thompson Loop: John MacLeod suggests that we look into a new loop trail from the present Riverside Loop across the back of the Thompson Rivet property and out to Fourth Street. This would involve a section of board walk over some marsh. It will also involve private land. We will review this when we have looked at the property, likely best done in the winter.

Trees:

- Rick reported that the trees were watered during the drought, but they have suffered anyway. We should form a work party to weed and mulch around the base of the trees in the Arboretum.
- The Ash Survey will be completed in September when the weather cools.
- We have Town funding for 10 trees and current requests for more than that.
- We have about 700 Pitch Pine seedlings for distribution in September.
- The Confederation Park Pitch Pines are looking better after we applied soil acidifier. *Doug* will check the pH again to see if we need further treatment.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 18, 2012, 8:30 am.

Special Meeting: Wednesday, Sept 19, 2012. 8:30 am