

TOWN OF GANANOQUE
TRAILS and URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

MINUTES

December 4, 2012 at 9:00 am

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

Accept Previous Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Rick Dunn, Sec Bill Sheppard, That the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2012 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

Trails:

Chairman's Notes:

1. The signs at Snappers Bridge have been replaced more securely.
2. A plan for the Urban Forest is needed. For 2013 we need a Planting and Pruning Plan. We also need a budget for submission to Council by our January meeting. For the longer term, we have the Gravenhurst plan to use for our more complete Urban Forest Plan.
3. Picnic Table on the Rogers Loop: It has to be relocated to the Lookout and then secured. We'll meet at the end of Herbert Street on December 11th at 9:00am and move it.
4. Hampton Heights is still a problem with trash on the Trail. Bill will consult with Brenda Guy for some resolution to the problem.
5. Status of 'UR Here' Trail guide signs: The map is ready. Translation is in progress. These will be done by early December so Brenda can have the signs made and invoiced by month's end.
6. Trail Marketing Guide: Bill reviewed the contents of a seminar that he attended. People still like to use paper maps. To make our Trails a "destination" there must be uniqueness that sets us apart from every other trail. The Biosphere may fill this need, if we market ourselves along with the other attractions of the Biosphere. The Committee should read through the slides, "Trail Marketing and Promotion", that Bill has emailed to us and do the survey.
7. Trails Open, September 2013: We had a successful event in 2012 and will do this again in September 2013.
8. Doug reported that we receive an award from the Thousand Islands Accommodation Partners (TIAP) for contributing to tourism in the Gananoque & TLTI area.

New Business:

— John M reports that the GISS shop has received a grant for \$8,000.00 from Lowes Building Supply of Kingston, some of which can be used for trails projects and activities. This would be for Grades 7 & 8 shop classes and potentially up to Grade 12. We could do some benches, story

boards ,forming & pouring of plaques for the Arboretum and duck boards for the Wildwood Trail

— Peter reported the recent accident where a local lady tripped on a root, fell and fractured her arm. Doug has taken care of the offending root. We should take pictures of any scene where there has been a reported accident. No pictures were taken this time.

— John C. reports that the Wildwood Trail is really nice and the signs that we installed are still there. There is a need for some simple duck boards to get over a wet area about half way through the trail.

— Jim Garrah has asked: Could we generate some interest with TLTI to develop the trails in the Provincial Wildlife Area? We can investigate some of this area during January or February 2013, while it is frozen, since there is a significant part of it that is north of Mud Creek. We could evaluate the feasibility of going across the marshy areas.

Trees:

1. Ash Inventory: This is now complete except for the Town Park. So far there are 211 ash trees reported in Town, which is less than previously thought. Peter will summarize the report. It is still the intent to recommend that some of the larger healthy specimens should be inoculated and the rest let go. This would provide a source of seed when there is finally a control for the Emerald Ash Borer, according the MNR, likely within 10 or 15 years.

2. A large maple was removed on Stone Street South after consultation between the Town and Fortis.

3. Tree Vandalism: The young offender who did the damage has been found by police. Peter will meet with the police to review the case.

4. Peter and Doug will prepare a plan to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer for presentation to the Town Council.

Trash:

The problem of household garbage being placed in street containers persists. The Parks and Recreation Department has been removing the barrels. We want to try a sign on each barrel telling people not to put their household garbage in the barrels.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 1:30pm at the Works Department boardroom.