

TOWN OF GANANOQUE
Minutes of the Urban Forest and Trails Committee
Tuesday January 17, 2012

Present: Bill Shepherd, Jim Garrah, Rick Dunn, Peter Murray, Doug Bickerton
Absent: John MacLeod, John Cornish
Guest: Sharon Nelson

The acceptance of the minutes of the November 22, 2011 were moved by Doug Bickerton and seconded by Rick Dunn. Carried

1) Presentation by Pam Staples:

Pam outlined the Door Open/Trails Open project for 29/30 September and indicated that she is uploading our trails information to the new web site. Last year the town welcomed some 300 visitors and Pam indicated that we should expect same or more. The committee will prepare the necessary handouts for guests so that trail exploration can be incorporated. Pam then spoke to the potential window display in the Singer store front . She will design and order a banner at approximately \$180.00 to the committee. Pam indicated that the Tourism Grant is still in waiting mode. The Trillium grant application is due March 1st which could be an alternative if the other doesn't get approved. She is also talking to Tom Russell from the EOD fund as a third alternative.

2) General:

2 (a) Budget 2012: Bill indicated that our suggestion for \$7,000 operating and \$25,000 capital is still included in the Town draft budget . At this stage no one is objecting.

2(b) Review of 2011 report and 2012 operating plan: Chair Peter handed out what he had prepared and submitted to the Town.

2(c) Job creation crew report: This item was not discussed due to the absence of John MacLeod.

2(d) Equipment Purchases: Doug indicated that he had purchased additional "flagging" tape. It was mentioned that Home Hardware now has an excellent lopper equivalent to the Fiskars which we had been looking for.

3) Trails:

3(a) Pam's presentation Discussion: Committee members had no additional comments subsequent to Pam's presentation.

3(b) Doug's report on trail maintenance: Doug and Peter had secured the picnic table rescued from the Gananoque River by the committee. Doug's report was referenced and he was thanked for the excellent summary. The transported picnic table on the Roger's loop was discussed and the question asked as to where this table would be best located. What about a bench rather than a table at the lookout? What about locating this same table on the narrows loop? This item to be further discussed at our next meeting.

3(c) 401 project: John M had recently run into the Department Of Highway's engineer who had initially approved our study. It was suggested that we nurture this contact and review the feasibility report with him looking at such items as the fencing specified, etc.. It was reported that John M had obtained many 12x 12 timbers which could assist us in building the structure. The question was asked as to currency of the License Renewal with MOT and the Town.

3(d) PWA trails and summer work requirements: This item was not discussed due to the absence of John Cornish.

3(c) The new narrows loop extension: This has been flagged and 1/3 of it has been cut out. Still considerable work required. It was verified that the Town does own this section so that all liability is in place.

3(f) New Trail business: Jim raised the question as to the availability of larger maps for our meetings. He indicated that those familiar with the trail detail have an advantage over those newer arrivals and that maps would be useful. The need for stone dust from the library to River Street was discussed and it was concluded that Sue Smith would be approached to include this work in 2012. Rick suggested that the old stone walkway along the water across the width of the Steelworker's park should be stone dusted as this is well used by pedestrians and school children.

4) Trees:

4(a) Pruning this winter: It was indicated that in 5 or 6 weeks that tree sap will start to run and thus moving on some pruning in the next 4 weeks would be desirable. Committee members were not optimistic that John M's crew will be assigned to pruning.

4(b) Update on Arboretum: Chair Peter indicated that signage had been added to the sign to indicate that this is the location of the Gananoque Arboretum.

4(c) Planting locations 2012/Ash tree inventory: The Chair indicated that the tree planting locations for 2012 will need to be identified and communicated to Town staff. He also indicated that the committee would be advised to identify Ash trees which would warrant considerable Town expenditure in order to save them from inevitable arrival of the invasive Ash Borer.

4(d) Summer Student for trails and trees: Doug led discussion re: student help in summer and how grant monies can be obtained. Jim indicated that we should ask the town to include a summer student (approximate cost \$7,000). An operating plan for tree maintenance should be drawn up and presented to the Town Works Department. A general discussion took place as to how this would be accomplished.

5) New Business

It was reported that Pickering has received a Tree grant at the same time that we did. He is in contact with them to see how they spent their grant monies. Rick asked whether or not one of John's 4 FAB grant employees situated at the FAB office could GPS the two new loops (Narrows and Riverside) as well as the Beaver Road loop so that we could update our master map and be ready for the next printing of the trail map.

Next meeting 21st February at 8:30 Town Hall