

TOWN OF GANANOQUE  
TRAILS AND URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE  
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 25, 2011

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Present: John MacLeod, Doug Bickerton, Peter Murray, Rick Dunn, Bill Sheppard

Regrets: Jim Garrah

Guests: John Cornish

Absent: Michel Desloges (Resignation was accepted by Council)

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**            NONE

**GENERAL**

Chair Peter asked for additions or deletions to minutes. It was moved by Rick and seconded by Bill to accept the minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> as circulated. Carried

Chair Peter mentioned that Michel Desloges had resigned from the committee. He also indicated that John Cornish had expressed an interest and had applied to the Town to fill the vacancy. Council has not dealt with his application as of the above date.

Committee members next discussed the fact that we are incurring expenditures for both the Trails and Trees side of our mandate and whether or not we need to allocate dollars to each initiative. It was agreed that we need not separate but just keep submitting bills until our budget of \$5000 has expired.

Committee members next discussed the \$25,000 capital allocation in the Town's budget for construction work under the 401 and whether or not, if not used, would it disappear. Bill had discussed this with Ross Jeffries and was led to believe that it was possible to reinstate this amount in the 2012 budget but he cautioned that it was not automatic and that Council may decide differently.

John MacLeod was asked how the application and hiring for the 26 week JCP was shaping up. John indicated that the application had been approved but that applications to fill the two positions were scarce. John indicated that the project actually started on October 24<sup>th</sup> and was confident that since no employees were hired that he would get a week extension at the other end. John indicated that he has received \$1200 from the Town and the Township to help with the lack of overhead allocation in the project approval.

The members discussed tools for maintaining the trails particularly the loppers and garbage pick-up tools. John will look at the Winter Fair on behalf of the committee.

## TRAILS:

### Review of last meeting Projects

Item A: Storage of committee tools: Bill had followed up this item and had talked to Ryan Morton and he had suggested one place which later on was reneged on due to Town use of the facility. Rick Cooper had suggested that the Works garage could be used but that access would be from 7 Am to 3 PM Monday thru Friday.

Item B: Benches: It had been discussed that the committee should acquire 2 benches for trail look-out spots. Sue Smith had been contacted and although further information will be forthcoming, she indicated that she estimated that they cost \$500 each.

Item C: Tables: John will pick up the required lumber as required and suggested that his team will make up the tables during inclement weather. One table is required to replace the rotten table on the Riverside loop. Rick will organize a work party to replace the picnic table back up on the lookout on the Roger's loop.

**2012 Budget requirements and review of project requirements**: Chair Peter will prepare a formal letter to Ross outlining the committee's requirements for 2012. In particular Peter will discuss the capital and operating requirements asking for \$5000 for the Trails maintenance.

All members discussed the possibility of using some of the allocated capital to erect the chain link fence under the 401 as a start of this project. Doug will contact the Town to insure that we follow Town (Sue and Ryan suggested) process getting bids, etc. Doug will act as lead with Rick helping as required.

**Pedro property progress**: John Cornish will organize a second sojourn into this property in the near future to continue "flagging" the trail and cutting a route so that the finishing crew can navigate. (Secretary note that this has been set for October 31<sup>st</sup>)

## TREES

**Arboretum event at Steel Workers Park**: Peter was complimented for the outstanding job he and Doug did with the official opening. It was well attended both by dignitaries as well as school children and the general public.

**Pruning with JCP help**: The committee discussed as to how this will take place and at the end John will let Peter know when the crew would be ready.

**2012 budget**: After considerable discussion the committee recommended to Peter to ask for \$2000 on top of the \$5000 to cover tree maintenance.

**Planting of new trees**: Peter suggested that all members should take part in the future in identifying potential spots around Gananoque for additional trees. As well, under-planting the older trees should be undertaken as we are going to lose many of the oldest trees due both to age as well as the Emerald Ash Borer.

**Other business:** The committee should investigate the cost of inoculation of selected trees in Town, especially in the Town Park against the Ash Borer. It would appear that the Blue Ash is responding better to the Ash Borer.

Doug talked about the small nursery at the Cemetery and asked where several Pitch Pines could be planted in Town. The committee made several suggestions.

**TRASH:**

The committee discussed how we could distribute our trash bags. It was recognized that the Town had placed a trash bin on Carmichael Boulevard as requested by the committee.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 Town Hall