

TOWN OF GANANOQUE
Trails & Urban Forest Committee

Minutes for meeting held on September 16, 2011
At Town Hall Boardroom

Present: John MacLeod, Doug Bickerton, Peter Murray, Jim Garrah, Rick Dunn

Guests: Pam Staples, John Cornish

Absent: Michel Desloges, Bill Sheppard

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS: None

GENERAL:

Chair Peter asked for additions or deletions to minutes. It was moved by Rick and seconded by Doug to accept the minutes of August as circulated. Carried

TRAILS:

Current Status review and maintenance: Members who had toured the property added their impressions of the trails. In particular the McLean's loop was discussed and a crew would be volunteering on September 22nd at 9:30 AM. A list of supplies for the work was discussed and assigned. Jim indicated that the Weed Eater was repaired enabling him to trim the Riverside loop.

Future trail work for the fall: The picnic table replacement on the Riverside Loop was discussed. The need for a cement pad was discussed and John indicated that his work crew had done this type of work in the past. Such a pad will allow the table to be anchored.

Display Window king Street: Pam indicated that the Deir Store window may become available or, possibly, the Springer property after the election. John will check on posters.

Tourism development grant and interpretative signs: Pam indicated that the Tourism Development Grant is complete. We have applied for \$134,900 in total. Pam indicated that approximately \$62,000 is for developing the trail linkage under the 401 underpass. As well, approximately \$40,000 has been earmarked for trail marker and interpretative signage. Letters of support have been received from the Accommodation Partners, RTO, The Biosphere and others.

The 401 accesses and PWA trails: John Cornish suggested a meeting with the hunters to negotiate. The committee suggests that the monies for the possible go-ahead to start the underpass work will lay within the grant application which Pam had just reviewed with the committee.

Status of the FAB initiative re: networks: No new information on this item

Status of other trail initiatives in area: Doug reported on the work to date with the Paddling Association and the possible portage solution at the Marble Rock Dam. The association is still active and negotiations with all parties continue.

TREES:

Arboretum event at Steel Workers Park: Peter outlined the work which had gone into this event. Dignitaries (TD reps, Model Forest Rep, MPP, MP, Mayor, FAB, etc.) have all been contacted and he is awaiting confirmations. It starts at 10:30 AM. Arlene will take the official photos. Peter was thanked for all his organizational work on this important PR event.

Fall Planting Schedule: 25 trees are coming in today for planting. 15 will be allocated to the town, 10 for the Arboretum. The King street tree planting will be undertaken in October. They will be Japanese Lilac. The Town is obtaining "locates" before anything can be started.

Pruning: The pruning project was discussed and all agreed that it would be great to tie some of this work to the 2 guys that may come with John's application.

Trees general update: Peter indicated that commemorative tree program has had two applications and they have been approved. The committee discussed the possibilities of the Town obtaining a forestry student during the summer who would be separate from the needs of the normal Town summer maintenance program.

John's JCP update: John updated members re: negotiations with the Fed's for a summer employment program. He is now quite confident that the program will commence on October 15th and run to April 15th. The stumbling point is that although wages will be covered in the funding, no overhead is being proposed. John has asked for \$1500 from both the Town and the Township to help with this overhead issue.
Rick Dunn; Recorder for the day.

Meeting Adjourned – Next Meeting October 04, 2011 @ 3:00PM @ Town Hall Boardroom.