

**RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES –APRIL 29 1:00 PM MEETING via ZOOM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Artena Hutchison	Chair
Bob Masching	Vice Chair
Larry Barton	
Annalynn Faulkner	
Stefanie Moy-Shuster	
Paul Grunsten	
Janet Masching	Secretary
David Snutch	Councillor, Liaison with Ramara
Ashley Watson	Business and Communications Director Ramara
Sarah Karabin	Ramara Works Department
Paul Madden	Guest
Steve Weinberg	Guest

**REGRETS**

Jack Green

1. Artena welcomed Paul Madden and Steve Weinberg from Washago area.

2. **Presentation from Washago area residents** Paul and Steve are part of a small group of families living on Donor Drive in Washago. They have safety concerns for pedestrians walking into Washago partly along Highway 169 and also, walking east along 169 to Fairgrounds Road.

The part of the route that is on the rail line would be eligible to receive Trans Canada Trail funding in 2021 and fits in with the “safety” objective of TCT. The part along 169 would not; a possible option there would be poles to separate a bike/walking lane from the road.

Some of us will meet to walk this route, at Singing Pines Road on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. [Annalynn suggested we consider meeting in the Casino parking lot on June 13<sup>th</sup> to look at the connection of the Boundary Rd trail onto Casino property. ]

3. **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> were approved by email. Janet notes that paragraph 8(3) of the Minutes should be amended to state that the land between the north end of Creighton and the trail is owned by the province of Ontario (MTO), not the township.

4. **Financial** Bob reported that the Committee requested to Council that the Trails Reserve of \$9501 be made available for 2020 and it is now carried forward. With the \$15,000 from the Township, \$15,000 (pending) from Simcoe County, \$7,000 from TCT grants and the \$2,131 balance of Ontario Commuter

Cycling Grant (OMCC), the Committee has a total of \$48,632 for 2020. The OMCC grant funds must be used this year.

## **5. Grants Update**

-- We learned on April 3, 9 months after submitting the application, that we did not receive the New Horizons grant for \$25,000 re Laguna Parkway to bridge

-- TCT grant: we received \$6,000 for the Boundary Road extension—matching Ramara 65%, TCT 35%

-- TCT grant : \$1,000 for bench repairs and sign installation on the existing Ramara trail going north on Rama Road.

## **6. Summary of Zoom meeting with John Pinsent April 23**

Present at the Meeting: John Pinsent, Madison Dunn, Josh Kavanagh, Michael Goodyear (TCTrails), Artena, Bob, Janet

Madison sent a copy of her notes of the meeting which Artena will forward to members of the Committee.

Michael Goodyear advised that we may have missed out on some TCT grants. They are very interested in funding trails in Ramara. TCT policy objectives are: extending existing trails, safety and First Nations engagement. All these goals fit with off road trails in the north end of Ramara. Because of the pandemic, TCT will be more flexible with deadlines for applications and with timelines for completion.

John Pinsent advised:

-- Ashley will be the contact person at the township for TCT, as for grants generally, and will forward the applications information to the Committee as it is received.

--Regarding signed agreements with landowners, there is nothing completed yet.

--He requested the committee provide a list of our projects and priorities for the next couple of years.

--We may obtain quotes on work to be done on the Boundary Road-Casino trail down to the Casino driveway and the Laguna Parkway to the T and between the bridges trail. For now, we must get 3 quotes for work costing \$25,000 or more. We have had an issue with contractors not wanting to bid, because their previous bids have not been accepted (due to significant cost differences). No work can be done until the restrictions are lifted.

Josh will give TCT the requested GIS information once available. The person working on GIS at the township is no longer working for the township.

## **7. Projects and Priorities 2020 and beyond**

### **For 2020**

1. Laguna parkway to bridge, and between the two bridges. Paul will do the specs for this part of trail. Larry will get quotes.
2. Boundary Road to Casino. Larry will get quotes. Sarah will ask Josh what the intent re the Casino end of the Boundary Rd-Casino trail is.
3. Signage, if enough funds left.
4. Repair the washouts on Lagoon City trail near marina. We noted 5 areas of small washouts. Paul advised that a solid PVC 4" pipe would provide needed drainage. Other work if funds available: railings on two bridges, bridge repair, benches.

### **For 2021**

5. Lagoon City trail to Sideroad 15
6. Sideroad 15 to Concession 7
7. Atherley trail connection to north end of Creighton Street. [The contact with the MTO, owner of the connection, is Ellen Bennett.]
8. Atherley trail gates [cost estimate per Paul for 6 gates plus installation is \$15,000]
9. Lagoon City railbed trail gates.
10. Lagoon City trail from T south to Road 47.

### **Future**

- Trail through Casino to CN rail line
- CN rail line to Washago
- Washago trails.

## **8. CN Rail Line to Washago**

David walked the rail line with Simcoe County chief engineer. The County is interested acquiring the land from CN, i.e. the rail line from Airport Road north to Washago, and building a trail.

The southern part of the former CN rail line, from Benson Road north to Airport Road, is First Nations land. This part of the trail is eligible for TCT funding and is a potential project for the Trails Committee

9. **Trans Canada Trail survey** Artena is completing the survey, due May 1<sup>st</sup> on behalf of the committee. The survey is in part to measure the effect of the pandemic on trails work.

10. **Social Media** Stefanie advised that not much is happening now on social media with the current crisis. Re the Chamber of Commerce map: the updated map is not yet posted on the CofC website. She asked for a PDF copy of the map, which was to be delivered mid March; she has not yet received it. We cannot yet post information in the Lagoon City newsletter, until the trail is an official Township of Ramara trail.

#### 11. **Signage**

Roadway signs: Ashley will get back to us as to whether the township will be ordering the signs for Bayshore parking lot and roadway trails. The committee will suggest placement and the Works dept will install them.

TCT Heritage Sign: Derek Green, sculptor, has agreed to give us some design input as to how the sign is to be installed. As to where to place the sign, Stefanie, Derek, Annalynn and Larry plan to walk the Atherley trail in the near future to determine the best site. Stefanie mentioned the importance of the backdrop, as it is a see-through sign. Hammock Harbour is one possibility.

Our next meeting is June 3, at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom.