

RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES –JULY 8 1:00 PM MEETING via ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Artena Hutchison	Chair
Bob Masching	Vice Chair
Larry Barton	
Annalynn Faulkner	
Paul Grunsten	
Janet Masching	Secretary
David Snutch	Councillor, Liaison with Ramara
Ashley Watson	Business and Communications Director Ramara
Sarah Karabin	Ramara Works Department

REGRETS

Jack Green
Stefanie Moy-Shuster

1. The Minutes of the June 3rd meeting have already been approved, with no changes.
2. **Financial Report** Bob reviewed the current Finances Project Allocation for 2020. The total spending allocated for 2020 is \$43,351, less the value of the donation of screenings by Lafarge. Reserves are now down to \$2300. The Simcoe County grant, TCT grant for Boundary Rd and for bench repairs and heritage sign are all fully committed. There is \$2100 from the OMCC grant which we may use next year. There is enough money for road signs (11 at roughly \$40 each). Artena will send a memo to Sarah Karabin to take to staff/council regarding donations for trails work including the one received from LaFarge and future donations that may come from the snowmobile clubs.
3. **Work Accomplished/in Progress**
The chipping was done on the Boundary Rd-Casino trail.
TCT Heritage sign Trail members looked at five sites (see photos): by the trail head, up the hill from there, two at Hammock Harbour and one where the trail comes out by Rama Rd. Larry asked Derek Green, sculptor to look at the sign, he is impressed and has 3 suggestions: to include a signature of its creator on the sign; to use heavy angle iron welded together for the uprights to look like small gauge track, to continue with the rail theme, and to make sure the location is the most visible one possible. Re placement he suggests the corner of Rama Rd and Boundary Rd, to replace the existing sign.
Ashley advised at this location we need permission from Simcoe County. And at any location we will need a building permit as the sign will have footings.
Artena: a location near the trail head would help people find parking.
The committee agreed to engage Derek to design and build the structure for the sign.

We agreed to defer the location of the sign for now. Before our next meetings we will look at the proposed locations so we can discuss.

Larry will pick up the sign to deliver to Derek.

Road signage Artena, Bob and Larry drove the road trails and picked the locations for 11 road signs, sent the map to Sarah and info re the content of the signs to Ashley. Ashley is awaiting approval of the signs and will then contact the sign company. There is money for the signs, approx. \$40 per sign for road signs and a bit less for the 3 parking signs.

Washago Informational Walk Several of us did the proposed Washago trail walk from Whispering Pines Road to Fairgrounds Rd with local residents Susan, Owen and Ben Reese and Steve Weinberg. There are clearly safety issues along Highway 169. David will follow up on the private land ownership issue, with help from Ashley and Sarah, and will advise the residents that in order to work on this project, the committee would need a couple of volunteers from the area. Artena has a Google map link from Susan Reese which she forwarded to Sarah to assist in determining the land ownership abutting the trail. Artena is following up with Ben Reese regarding a possible route to cross Highway 169 under the bridge.

Boards replaced on Atherley Trail benches A big thank you to Paul for repairing the benches. He advised the cost will be less than the \$300 estimate.

Contractor Quotes Council accepted the quotes from the contractor for the Lagoon City trail and the Boundary Rd-Casino trail. The work on Lagoon City will start July 9th at the latest and the Boundary-Casino trail should be completed by the end of July. Larry will take photos of the construction work and send them to Stefanie or Ashley. Larry will give the Casino advance notice of the start date for the work on Boundary Rd trail and will tell the contractor the river rocks at the Casino end of the trail are to be moved to the right of the trail.

4. **Update on Grants or other Monies**

County of Simcoe: we received a letter confirming the \$ 15,000 grant is to be used by Nov 27th

Commuter Cycling grant: because of restrictions on the location for which this grant can be used, Zach has applied for an extension until the 2021 season to use the remaining \$2,000. If we don't get the extension, suggestions are: we can use the money for a sign at Laguna Parkway or for buying a culvert.

Snowmobile clubs possible contribution Annalynn will write to Rob Love with information as to the cost of the trail north of the Casino, estimated at \$65,000. Larry will contact Carden Snowmobile Club.

Contribution from Talisker for Lagoon City trail Artena will write to John Pinsent to ask if there is anything to report.

5. **Social Media** Artena noted that Stefanie did a lot of work for the Committee on many aspects of social media, including a Trails Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram. Artena will follow up with Stefanie as to whether we could send photos to her, to be curated and forwarded to Ashley. Ashley would like photos to showcase what we have done; she has posted the chipping and brushing photos re the Boundary Road-Casino trail. In order to post photos of people, we need their verbal permission, confirmed in an email from the Committee to Ashley.

Chamber of Commerce map: None of us have yet seen the new map with the new trails delineated.

6. Projects and Priorities

Casino to Benson Road: We have an agreement with the Casino to build this trail. Artena will contact John Pinsent re what is the route around the parking lot and who will be paying for the it.

For the route north from the Casino to Benson Road, we will need funding from TCT. Bob recommends that we not proceed with this trail without that funding, as there is no money for it. We discussed having another meeting with Michael Goodyear or other representative from TCT to get money for the Casino trail, and to discuss the Washago trail from Doner Drive to Fairgrounds Road. Ashley has Goodyear's contact info, she will forward it to Artena. Artena will contact Michael about attending part of our next meeting, or if feasible, coming for a tour to see the future trail which needs funding.

Artena will contact John Pinsent for an update re what the Casino plans to do around the Casino parking lot.

In 2021, the main priority is the Lagoon City- Sideroad 15-Concession 7 trail. Artena will contact John Pinsent re his dealings with the landowner. There is a lot of work to be done on Sideroad 15: culverts to be laid, a possible short boardwalk. We decided to defer a decision on this work for now. Artena: the Atherley to Creighton St. trail is another small project we could work on.

- 7. Bylaw re ATV's** Larry noted in an email there is a bylaw No. 2005.55 prohibiting ATV's along the Atherley-Boundary Road trail. Regarding further regulation of ATV's on Ramara trails there are various factors to consider: safety, damage to the trail, possible use of the trail by ATV owners to commute to work etc. We decided to defer any decision on the Committee's position on whether to recommend expanding the ban to a future meeting.

8. Township News from David Snutch

David has reached out to CN several times and has not heard back re the disposition of the rail line from Airport Road to Washago. He will continue to pursue this. Artena noted that we would like to know about this piece as we do not want the trail to dead-end at Airport Road.

- 9. Next meeting** We will meet on Tuesday August 11th at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.