

RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES –SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 1:00 PM MEETING via ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Artena Hutchison	Chair
Bob Masching	Vice Chair
Larry Barton	
Annalynn Faulkner	
Paul Grunsten	
Janet Masching	Secretary
Stefanie Moy-Shuster	
Steve Weinberg	
John Pinsent	CAO, Ramara
David Snutch	Councillor, Liaison with Ramara
Jenn Stong	GIS Infrastructure Analyst Ramara
Sarah Karabin	Ramara Works Department
Ashley Watson	Business and Communications Director Ramara

1. Artena welcomed everyone and we were introduced to Jenn Stong, GIS Infrastructure analyst for Ramara.
2. Janet advised that the minutes of the August 11 meeting were approved via email.

3. Financial Report

Bob: We have spent all our budget for 2020. We have \$7500 in the reserve fund, plus the Commuter Cycling grant of \$2100 which has been extended until the end of 2021 to use and \$345 from TCT, to be used to install the TCT sign.

Ashley: please send photos of the sign once installed and the date installed, which she will forward to TCT.

4. John Pinsent report:

Ashley will continue to coordinate grants and communications.

--The committee has a date **October 19th** to present to council our information and proposals for 2021 and long term trail building. 20 minutes is the maximum time available. Maps will be part of this; Ashley will attend and open maps as required. Ashley will also bring Larry's large trails map now stored in her office

--The Committee will want to be part of the township's Strategic Plan

--He met with Casino and Rama First Nations in June or July. The Casino takes direction from OLG which was not there. He expects to have further information for us[i.e. the plan for the trail on Casino property] later in September.

--John will look to hear the Committee's proposals for the trail/boardwalk to Concession 7.

---he does not see any issues with completing the Casino trail

---he is working with Talisker on the proposed trail to 47 and Brechin. There is a lease with Talisker for the rail bed north of the sewage plant only.

--he is working to get money for trails. There will be no tax increase in the township this year because of Covid.

5. Concession 7- Lagoon City trail The Committee will be presenting to Council on this and other proposed trails on October 19th regarding plans for 2021 and long term.

--Pinsent: negotiations with private landowner have gone nowhere.

--Committee will further investigate the boardwalk option and Side Road 15 trail.

--Larry noted that this trail is the missing link around Lake Simcoe and is supported by the County and Ramara. It is essential to enable cyclists/walkers to avoid highway 12.

--Stefanie: in her role as marketing coordinator for Fern Resort and as a cyclist, the first thing mentioned by groups of cyclists is the need for a continuous route around Lake Simcoe. This would be a tourism draw for Ramara.

6. GIS Coordinator & Maps Liaison Person

Jenn Stong will be putting trails on the GIS map, both as built and "to be built." Larry Barton is now the contact person on the committee for maps. Larry and Jenn will meet Monday Sept 21 at 11:30 am at the township office.

Maps will serve many purposes. The map will have a mobile feature. Layers of info can be added later. They can contain internal information re trails planning, she can help set that up. "Connectivity" is a basic principle of council.

7. ATV's and Lagoon City trail

John will speak to Talisker re controlling the use of ATV's on trails. In his experience, they do not mix well with other trail uses. Artena: based on environmental assessment, they should not be near the heron rookery. David: we should also ask Talisker about signs limiting ATV use.

John: send me a note.

8. Proposed meeting re Casino Trail

The township will communicate with Michael Goodyear of TCT re the meeting referred to in paragraph 2 of the August 11 minutes. Madison will set up the meeting with: First Nations, Casino, Ramara and Committee representative.

Bob: Re proposed Casino trail, First Nations can apply for CIP grant to cover 80% of work; TCT may cover the 20%

--per Ashley: CIP grant info is not out yet; the TCT application has no formal deadline; answer from CIP will take many months/year

--we will await township advice on Casino plan needed for grants applications

--committee's role will be to assist First Nations in the grant application if requested

9. Updates re Signs

a) **Share the Road** signs: Council on September 13 referred the committee's request to staff for further study

Bayshore parking signs: the Bayshore board has decided to put up its own signs to regulate use of its parking lot.

Stefanie: \$1000 in funding might be available from Ontario Tourism.

- b) **TCT Heritage** sign: Bob applied to OntarioOneCall for locate, should hear back Sept 22. All is ready to go. The posts to be installed Sept 25, meet at 9:00. Annalynn will get further info for the plaque for the sign, Larry will send dimensions and she will find out the cost. Ashley through her contacts will help if there are issues with getting the locates.
- c) **Lagoon City** sign: Ashley designed the sign to conform with Ramara requirements. It will be ready early next week. Bob will get a GPS location and order the locate from OntarioOneCall. Ashley will order a stake for Committee to purchase from the township. Sarah will follow up on this.
- d) TCT Covid signs. Discussion as to whether these are needed. Will get 10 free signs and store for now.

10. Info re Washago Project

Sarah now has the digital specs for the bridge from the County; Artena has sent them to Steve and to Susan to forward to Ben.

Land ownership: Janet will forward Steve's verbal description of the proposed trail to Sarah for Jenn to do the digital map, which will include land ownership information. Steve will join the September 21 meeting with Larry and Jenn at Council offices.

Ashley will reach out to the County Trails coordinator to work on this, and to Lake Country to integrate plans.

11. TCT Hike in October Annalynn advised there is nothing further to be done.

12. Communication from Committee to other Stakeholders All communication is to go through John Pinsent.

13. New Business

- a) **Helical Piles and Lagoon City- S.R. 15- Con 7 Trail** Paul has investigated helical piles and emailed photos of the piles made by Techno- Metal Posts to committee members. No auger is needed. The company will recommend the type of pile needed, dependent on soil conditions. Will need to give a set of drawings to the township and engineering bore holes might be required. The cost for each pile is about \$300 and about 340 poles will be needed. The Committee would be prepared to fund raise to cover this and other costs.

Stefanie will reach out to Simcoe County trails coordinator Brendan to provide data on the tourism dollars generated from trails and to Lake Country. She suggests we look at the boardwalks installed at Carden Plain, and tap into information available from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority.

- b) **Grants** Ashley & Janet: We cannot proceed yet on the CIP grant application as it is not yet available. Re the TCT grant, we will need the Casino's plan for the trail on its property for this application.
- c) **Other funding sources**
Re Talisker, John is working on this. There may be other possible funding sources eg Lions Club, Rotary Club, snowmobile clubs.
- d) **Official Trail Openings** We will hopefully be able to have this in spring 2021. Ashley will do a press release re the extension of the Atherley trail to the Casino, and the new trail at Laguna

- Parkway. TCT Heritage sign will be installed around Sept 28-29: Ashley will do a photo and a press release to Orillia Matters. Larry will let Ashley know the date and time.
- e) **Work Bees** Oct 3 at 9:30 a.m. we will meet at the Laguna Parkway entrance of the Lagoon City trail to do the bridge railings and remove silt fencing. Bring gloves, our own water, screwdrivers, chop saw, drill, face masks and Larry will bring a generator. Re brushing of the walking trail on the 2nd rail bed, we will discuss after October 3.
 - f) **Simcoe County update** Stefanie has sent Brendan of Simcoe County maps of our new trails. He will do a strata map. The Simcoe County paper guides were not distributed this year due to Covid. The guide will be updated digitally and a new guide published in early 2021. She can get some free “Share the Road” signs from Brendan.
 - g) **Meeting September 22 re October 19 presentation.** Artna, Larry, Bob, Janet and Steve will meet at Artna’s at 10:00 a.m. to prepare an outline of the presentation. David would like to be involved.

Our next meeting will be October 14th at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
The meeting adjourned at 3:30.