

## RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES –OCTOBER 14 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

David Snutch          Councillor, Liaison with Ramara  
Ashley Watson         Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator  
Sarah Karabin         Ramara Works Department

1. Artena welcomed everyone. Larry added to the agenda an item on cost and maintenance of the boardwalk and David added an item re crosswalks at Boundary Rd and Monck Road.
2. Minutes of the September meeting had been approved. Two changes to be noted: the federal infrastructure programme is ICIP Investing in Canada Infrastructure Programme, not CIP; Ashley's title should be shown as Coordinator, not director.
3. **Financial Report** Bob noted all of the Ramara and Simcoe county money for 2020 has been used up. There is \$53 left in the TCT Clean-up Grant, all of it and more will be needed for the steel, boulder and plaque for the TCT Heritage sign. Larry submitted more bills for trails work. We still have the \$7000 reserve and \$2100 cycling grant.
4. **TCT Heritage sign** The TCT Heritage sign was sandblasted, repainted, a frame fabricated, and installed in two stages. Ashley sent out a press release on Sept 25 and it appeared in Orillia Matters. The committee by a show of hands agreed that a boulder should be placed in front of the sign with a plaque affixed honouring the sign builder, to say designed and fabricated by Bob Freeman, his date of birth and death and donated by Barb Freeman. The boulder will be donated by Fowler. Annalynn will look into having it moved and placed.
5. **Other Work Bees done** Railings were installed on one of the Lagoon City bridges, silt fencing removed. We are waiting for the Lagoon City sign to be installed by the Works dept. Ashley will ask Josh to let us know when this is being done, so we can take pictures. Ashley will do a press release. Artena reported the Bayshore signs approved by Bayshore's board will be ordered October 17 and installed by the end of the month.
6. **Boundary Rd-Casino trail signs** New road-type signs were installed on this trail in response to a safety concern because of the drop to the Casino parking lot at the north end. Paul noted the signs going south are wrong, stating the trail ends, should say "road crossing ahead" as trail continues.  
David: Committee should be informed when signs are installed on trails.

Unclear if snowmobiles use this trail. If so, they could install stop signs at both ends.

Sarah will follow up with the Roads dept. and email us as to who we should contact re removal /changing of signs.

David Snutch felt there should be pedestrian crosswalks at Mara/Boundary Road and Monck Road. Paul and Annalynn will be walking that section as per item 14 below and will report back on signage.

**7. October 29 Deputation preparation** Artena thanked everyone who worked on this. The package including maps, photos, tourism stats and 8 letters of community support is ready to go. Ashley will assist the presenters on Friday with a technical run-through on Zoom.

**8. North Simcoe Life article** Joan Mitzi-Fry would like to do an article on trails for the Dec issue of North Simcoe Life. Annalynn will give her photos and she is speaking with Artena for additional information on existing trails.

**9. ATV's on trails** The present by-law 2005.60 prohibits ATV's only on the Ramara trail from Atherley to Boundary Road. Ashley advised if the committee wants to ban them, she could file a report asking for this with council. A majority of the committee wants no ATV's or horses on trails, because of damage to the trails, safety concerns and interference with herons and other wildlife on and beside the trail.

Re the Lagoon City trail, Artena wrote to the owner Talisker expressing our concerns and has not yet received a reply. The Talisker lease ends in October 2022 and is silent on this issue.

The township may have liability concerns with ATV's on trails.

**10. Washago Trail meeting October 13** This meeting with TCT, Ramara, Simcoe County and Steve from our committee was very positive. Simcoe County is looking at the engineering requirements for the route along 169. Kathy Sipos, Director of Infrastructure is investigating Howlyn Pines. [Brendan and Anna D from Simcoe will get the maps from Jenn Strong and TCT for the Simcoe engineers.] Ramara will apply for the grant to enable a study to be done, after receiving the engineering info from Simcoe. Michael Goodyear advised the work should be done, and grants applied for, in stages.

TCT may have more money available, for assessments for trails and engineering studies, due to other projects being cancelled because of COVID. Simcoe County Trails Connecting Communities matching grants will be available in 2021, and multiple years' support is possible.

Michael Goodyear said group could meet again in early November to discuss next steps.

**11. Township news** There are no updates at present with regard to meetings with landowners of the trail through the Casino north to Airport Road.

Pier at the Narrows: David noted the large concrete blocks at the pier at the narrows, which prevent access to cyclists/walkers viewing the weirs and narrows. The township owns the pier. Sarah will follow up to see if this can be opened up. Members noted the historical plaque under the bridge is not seen by many. Committee could look at installing a similar sign on the pier, to make a lookout which would be a feature of the trail.

**12. Grants** There is TCT infrastructure money available for signage, which would apply to the Atherley-Washago trails.

No news of any ICIP grants available in Ontario for trails.

### **13. 2021 Projects and Budget**

Any major decisions on work in 2021 will depend on the outcome of the Oct 19 presentation and budget request. Side Road 15 and the boardwalk should be our main focus.

Re the boardwalk, Larry has done research and learned that treated lumber may last over 40 years. Brown is better, 8 feet of 2 x 6 is \$15-18.00 given the present inflated prices due to COVID. Hemlock is even more durable and better for the environment, so used by conservation authorities. The cost from a Lindsay dealer is \$1 per foot of 2 x 6, \$1.50/foot for 2 x 8.

#### **14. Work in 2020**

We agreed to start working on a signage plan for all trails: Paul and Annalynn will walk the Atherley-Casino trail; Steve and David the Washago Trail and Artena, Bob & Janet the Lagoon City trail. We can push the non-TCT trail to tourism agencies for grant money.

Work bee Oct 28 at 9:30: we will meet to brush the second rail bed at Lagoon City. Will need chain saws and Larry or Paul will look into renting a cutter for the tall grass. Also to build a small bridge between the two rail beds.

#### **15. Fund Raising in 2021**

There are many ideas for fund-raising in our Oct 19 presentation which we can discuss at future meetings.

Larry: Volunteers and donors could be recognized on a large board at the trail head. This was done on the Guelph-Goderich trail, 132 km long. Donors could sponsor sections of the trail, if say 340 sections, each sponsored for \$1600-2000.

Donors would get a charitable gift receipt for tax purposes. Bob will check with Zach, likely this has to be a gift directly to the township.

We adjourned at 2:35.

Our next meeting is November 10 at 10:00 a.m.