

RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES –NOVEMBER 10 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
Jennifer Fisher	Councillor, Liaison with Ramara
Sarah Karabin	Ramara Works Department

REGRETS

Ashley Watson Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator

1. Artena welcomed everyone and in particular Jennifer Fisher, Ramara Councillor, who is now a member.
2. Minutes of the September meeting had been approved. One change: today's meeting time is 1:00 p.m. Contact list: Janet will send with addition of Jennifer Fisher.
3. **Financial Report** Bob noted all of the grant money(Ramara and Simcoe County) for 2020 has been used up, except for the Ontario Commuter Cycling grant of \$1700. Also \$6500 is left in the reserve.
4. **Additions to Agenda** David advised of a volunteer willing to help with work bees, Marilyn Hagerman. Artena will call her and bring her up to date on the work of the committee.

Cathy Wainman forwarded the amended Terms of Reference which: increase the number of community members from 9 to 10; add one more councillor to the committee; add one staff representative and provide that staff support is now from the Infrastructure Department through the Infrastructure Administrative Assistant Sarah Karabin. The Committee approves of the changes.

Re the Washago trail, Steve needs a contact at Simcoe County Engineering Dept for Ben Reece to send drawings of proposed under- bridge boardwalk. Sarah will get this from Ashley and send to Steve.

5. **Webinar** *Destination Bike: Welcoming Cyclists in Simcoe County* by Ontario hosted by Bike Network OBBN and Cycle Tourism Simcoe. Janet and Stefanie attended this webinar in October. It was mainly directed at businesses. OBBN is a non-profit that since 1992 certifies bike-friendly businesses in Ontario. 86 of these in Simcoe Cty. Its newsletter has 15,000 subscribers. Brendan Matheson the Outdoor Experience Coordinator from Simcoe Cty advised some of their strategies are: to develop safe routes, improve infrastructure, highlight operators and attract cyclists. Important amenities are: repair stations built locally and purchased by municipalities; availability of maps(used by 44% cyclists vs. apps 29% use

and GPS 13%); parking. Useful stats: most cyclists are age 45-69 and 82% from Ontario. Two of the 'pillars of success' that apply to us as well are community building ie building a local community and culture and branding with bikes. Catchy signs are helpful. Simcoe has 2 massive cycling trails, the Simcoe Loop Trail(Barrie-Orillia-Midland-Penetang-Barrie) and the Waterfront Trust Trail along Georgian Bay which swings by Washago so could loop into our Ramara trail network.

6. Township Updates

Ashley sent out the media release re the Lagoon City trail, which got good feedback. The committee would like to see another release re Lagoon City with a photo of the sign and regular releases to the public. Artena will speak with Ashley.

ICIP grant-- \$100,000 is available for Ramara. Council will decide how to allocate this, it will be discussed on November 12th.

Land agreements re Lagoon City trail—John Pinsent will be meeting with the landowner on November 12 and will advise.

ATV's and Talisker property—John is meeting with the landowner on Nov 12 and will advise.

Washago's 169-Howlyn Pines trail section—Sarah has not heard of any scheduled November meeting with TCT. Ashley has been in contact with Brandon re the TCT grant for a feasibility study.

Casino-Rama trail—nothing to report. Sarah has been trying to find out if snowmobiles will be using the Casino trail, she will keep us posted.

Casino trail southbound signs—Paul noted that the erroneous signs have not been removed/changed. Sarah will follow up on this and advise.

TCT Clean Up grant—There is a new grant available, application due January 21. A half ton of gravel is needed, \$300 for repair of a defaced sign, work on the pier could be included, landscaping work around heritage sign (par. 8 below). Grasses are growing in on the Hammock-Fern trail (suggested Josh will look after that)

Pier at Narrows—Agreed blocks should be moved/removed and other work done to clean up pier. Blocks could be staggered for safety so that walkers can pass but snowmobiles cannot go onto the pier. Artena, Annalynn, Larry and Stefanie will meet at the pier on Nov 12 at 9:00 a.m. to see what work is needed and then will get an estimate for the work. The township may move the rocks and Kathy Sipos approval will be needed.

7. Councillor's report-- David has not yet been able to speak with Jill Dunlop re the ICIP grant.

8. Committee Updates

October 19 Deputation re Lagoon City trail This went well. We will hear after Council meets November 12 if we have approval to go ahead with boardwalk, and if budget request of \$30,000 is met.

Work bee Lagoon City trial October 28 We installed the bridge at Concession 6, and cleared the 2nd rail bed for a rough walking trail from the sewage plant to Con. 6.

Heritage sign: We declined the kind offer of a boulder from a quarry because of township issues and are starting over. Possible options are a small boulder and shrubs or ornamental grasses, which Annalynn is looking into. David will send photos of shrubs he has.

North Simcoe Life article The article will appear soon, in the Dec/Jan or Jan/Feb issue and is partly based on Ashley's media release.

Signage Various committee members walked the Lagoon City, Atherley and Washago trails and have suggestions for signage. Since all of these trails will be changing in the next couple of years, we agreed to shelve the signage recommendations for now. Discussion re a future trail map at entrance to Lagoon City, educational signs re herons & railway history, direction signs at the "T" and colour coding different sections of the trail. Temporary sign: we agreed there should be a sign saying trail ends at Concession 6. Re Atherley to Casino trail, Paul has pictures and a record of all the wayfaring signs paid for by TCT, with all their GPS locations on the signs. Sarah: Jenn Strong can enter all of these signs on the GIS maps.

Safety signage: there are 2 blind curves near the sewage plant, so signage to reduce speed of snowmobiles and warn of oncoming traffic is needed. Clearing brush at the second curve may improve visibility. Artena will email the Orillia snowmobile club. **Heron** protection: we will need at least 2 signs installed in early spring for the heron rookery to say it is a "quiet zone" from April through July, and to prohibit ATV's during that period at least, and likely a gate. Sarah will report back re meeting with Talisker.

Gates are needed on the Atherley trail, to be done when we have money. We will need approval of the snowmobile club. The support posts need to be far apart enough for the groomer.

9. **Possibilities for future trails** To get cyclists off Muley Point Road for safety reasons, there are various options: unopened road allowances Concessions 8 and 9 from Side Road 15 to 20, then the unopened road allowance on Concession 10 between SR 20 and Muley Point Rd. The Simcoe GIS map shows all unassumed road allowances, as does the Ramara Official Plan. We would need permission from the Township to use unassumed road allowances.

10. **Beaver dams** There are 2 dams of concern, one west and one east of the Concession 6 bridge on the Lagoon City trail. The westerly one will need someone with a boat and hip waders to deal with it. Sarah will follow up with Josh, the Infrastructure Department deals with dams.

11. **Fundraising** Janet outlined various fundraising ideas from a professional fundraiser. An email summarizing them will be sent to everyone right after the meeting. Our next meeting will be Wednesday November 25 at 1:00 p.m [later postponed to December 16th] to discuss fund raising and Council decisions re: 2021 budget; ICIP grant dollars and approval of 2021 projects pending outcome of meetings with landowners.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.