

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

ATTENDANCE

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| Artena Hutchison | Chair |
| Bob Masching | Vice Chair |
| Larry Barton | |
| Paul Grunsten | |
| Janet Masching | Secretary |
| Stefanie Moy-Shuster | |
| Steve Weinberg | |
| David Snutch | Councillor |
| Jennifer Fisher | Councillor |
| Ashley Watson | Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator |
| Sarah Karabin | Ramara Works Department |

REGRETS

Annalynn Faulkner

1. Artena welcomed everyone.
2. Minutes of the November meeting have been approved.
3. **Financial Report** Bob advised the finances are unchanged from last month, \$6500 in reserve and 1700 in the municipal Commuter Cycling Grant.
4. Additions to Agenda: David: development near Atherley.
5. Updates

Budget 2021: the Township approved a budget of \$30,000. In January we can apply for matching funds of 30,000 from Simcoe County. In the past, Zach advised Ramara has reduced its commitment if Simcoe does not commit the full amount. David: if Simcoe gives less than 30,000, we will ask Council to not reduce its share.

ICIP grant: David spoke with Jill Dunlop re her support for the boardwalk trail and asking if there are other funds available. The last Friday of every month, Conservative supporters attend a virtual open house hosted by Jill and Bruce Stanton; members of Committee could attend and speak with her re trails funding.

TCT Winter grant: Ashley advised that the grant of \$1000 was approved. Trans Canada wishes to incorporate the Atherley pier as part of the TCT trail. We agreed the money will be spent on fence repair. Any balance owing will be paid from the reserve. The deadline to spend the money is March 31. We have permission to move the blocks to get the work done, we will ask Dan from Hammock Harbour. No permit is needed to add the same type of fencing.

Paul will arrange for the blocks to be removed and speak with Annalynn re timing of the work and the final price. The bench, with concrete base now frozen into ground, can be moved in the spring.

There is a safety concern re the gap at the east end of the bridge. Paul, with Larry assisting, will place a ramp across the gap, once the fence is built.

Meetings regarding Land Agreements: Nothing to report re the Casino and First Nations. Madison will set up a meeting with Talisker in early January.

CNR railbed-Washago Trail: David spoke to CN, they have not started the first stage of advertising to sell the land. If there are no buyers, the land is offered to the federal government, then provincial, then the county. He will send a reminder to Daniel at CN.

Authorization for boardwalk trail: David: once there is an agreement with Talisker, the township can then give permission to proceed.

Washago Trail: Sarah has provided a contact name for Ben Reese at the Simcoe County engineering department to review ideas for the cantilevered bridge. TCT may require a feasibility study re the entire trail. Sarah will arrange a call or Zoom with Michael Goodyear, Larry and Steve to find out what is the scope of the feasibility study.

Use of Casino trails by snowmobilers They are not using this trail, so will not be grooming it. Sarah will check and see if the southbound signs have been removed.

6. Signage Artena discussed Caution signs for the two corners at Lagoon City with Rob Love. The snowmobilers recognize the safety issue with more hikers/bikers this year and for now will install corrugated signs at those locations.

8. Committee Updates

Great Trail Hike in October The Trans Canada trails had a total of 100,000 hikers in October, 108,000 kilometres of trail were hiked which included all sections of the trail. The Atherley trail was one of them. Agenda for meeting with Talisker has been completed. Stefanie has revised the presentation and sent it to Bob.

Two Work Bees: On November 28, some of us cleared brush from the Atherley pier. On December 11, we removed a lot of small stumps on the second rail bed at Lagoon City. Larry proposed a bee to survey Side Road 15, to find all the stakes so it is clearly marked from Concession 7 to the rail bed. To be done after the ground is frozen. Also to survey where the boardwalk will go, see what trees are in the way. We will add Marilyn Hagerman (who helped on the last bee) to our email list.

Heritage sign We will leave the landscaping project until spring, possibly plant some shrubs and add a boulder.

9. New Business

New Chair Artena will be stepping down as Chair and resigning from the committee. She needs a year off. David and Larry thanked her on behalf of all of us for all her excellent and hard work for the trails committee. She will be missed. Larry has agreed to serve as the new Chair. Bob agreed to chair the fund-raising campaign for the boardwalk trail.

Artena will follow up with 2 people from Bayshore who are potential members.

Artena will send her resignation letter to Cathy Wainman.

Ashley will let the Clerks department know that there are now 3 openings on the committee. She will also advertise in social media.

Articles for Lagoon City paper and Bayshore Banner We agreed after the meeting in January, to place articles re the trails and new members. Artena is happy to write a press release for the Bayshore Banner.

Ongoing Media Releases Ashley will promote use of trails generally in Ramara, rather than snowmobile trails, because of liability concerns. The trails are multi-use, to be used by everyone. The agreement with Ramara provides that the snowmobilers will groom the trails.

Gravel for Atherley trail at Monck Road Paul advised there is a small washout there. This can be repaired in the spring and may be covered by the TCT spring grant.

Signage for loop trail at Lagoon City and end of trail sign at Con. 6 The loop trail sign will say “ Loop Trail to Concession 6 Uneven Path” possibly with walker/skier symbol. Janet/Larry will send proposed wording to Ashley for signs.

Idea re Positioning Rail Cars on Trail Ashley will find out who in the township knows the status of the rail cars on Side Road 20 near Concession 8, and whether they wish to remove them. Janet will contact the Ramara Historical Society and find out if they would be interested in taking on this project in the future.

Future subdivision & Traffic circle David wanted the committee to be aware of this potential 2000 home plus hotel development between Atherley and the Casino. A traffic circle is planned where the railroad crosses Rama Road. This will affect the trail.

10. **Fundraising** Bob will take on organizing the fund raising for the boardwalk trail. This will be a very big project. We will need new members, especially from Lagoon City.

We will need a presentation package: Stefanie revised the PDF and has experience doing a package for the Orillia Museum and will help on this.

If door-to-door: Helpful to have a web presence so people can contribute online and easily, and to advise donors of tax receipts.

Tax deductibility: Donors can be advised they will get a charitable tax receipt from the Township for donations. Over \$250 total contributions for the year, they get a 50% credit. If their total donations are less than \$250 that year, they still get 25%. It is up to Ramara, which will do the administrative work, to decide on the minimum contribution amount to get a tax receipt.

Jennifer: Chamber of Commerce will have list of businesses, we should go to local businesses, not just big box. She knows an easy to use website for fundraising

11. **2021 Planning and Priorities** Larry sees the priorities for 2021 as follows:

- #1 Finish the fence and ramp on the Atherley pier
- #2 Fundraising for the Concession 7-rail bed trail
- #3 Getting the LSCA permit to do Side Road 15 trail section.
- #4 Soil testing boardwalk area
- #5 Increasing our membership

All of this hinges on the Talisker agreement. Ashley or Sarah will find out if there are any property taxes payable on the boardwalk wetlands.

If we do not get this, the Washago trail would be our project.

Our next meetings: Tuesday January 19 at 1:00 p.m. re fund-raising

Wednesday Jan 27 at 1:00 p.m. regular meeting

We adjourned at 2:50 p.m.