

## MINUTES OF RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING –January 28, 2021 7:00 PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDANCE

Larry Barton	Chair
Bob Masching	Vice Chair
Paul Grunsten	
Annalynn Faulkner	
Janet Masching	Secretary
Stefanie Moy-Shuster	
Steve Weinberg	
Sandra Banks	
Mary Miller	
David Snutch	Councillor
Jennifer Fisher	Councillor
Sarah Karabin	Ramara Works Department
Ashley Watson	Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator
Susan Potalivo	
John Miller	

- 1. Welcome** Larry welcomed two new members, Sandra Banks and Mary Miller. Susan Potalivo and John Miller are attending as observers, and plan to apply in the near future. John is awaiting approval from his employer.
- 2. Minutes of meetings** The minutes from the Dec 16 2020 meeting and the fundraising meeting on Jan 19, 2021 have previously been approved.
- 3. Financial report** Bob advised that we have the \$30,000 grant from the township for 2021, plus the reserve and Commuter Cycling Grant which together are \$8100, for a total of \$38,100. We will apply for the Simcoe County matching grant of \$30,000.
- 4. Grant updates** Simcoe County Connecting Communities grant: Ashley: we will know when we can apply this week or next, usually the end of February is the deadline.  
 ICIP: the Trails Committee is not eligible. The township has applied for the grant for the waterfront strategy.  
 TCT spring grant for maintenance: Ashley will let us know, usually TCT usually advises around the end of February and applications are made in March.  
 Trillium: Trillium has 3 streams: Seed, Grow and Capital. All the money from the Grow and Capital cycles for 2020 has been redirected into the Resilient Communities fund. Ashley: usually applications are made in November; there may be no money for 2021.  
 LSRCA: This is a grant for enhancing wildlife management for up to \$10,000, requires matching money. We will defer consideration of this until the landowner negotiation is resolved.

- 5. Meetings re Land Agreements** As mentioned at our Jan 19 meeting, we met with the Talisker representative on Jan 11 re the land on which the proposed boardwalk trail would be located.. He is fine with having the boardwalk trail on Talisker land, he and John will work out an agreement. This is on hold pending dealings with the owner of the rail bed.
- Owner of rail bed:** Council had a closed session discussion on January 25, re a formal offer to the owner. We should receive an update after the February 1 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
- Casino and First Nations land Casino to Airport Road** There is not anticipated to be any problem with this trail in the long run. Negotiations are ongoing on a number of issues and the proposed trail is a part of that. Our concern is with missing out on Trans Canada grants in the meantime. Rama First Nations could apply for this grant.
- CN line from Airport Road to Washago** The land is to be offered to the federal government, the province, then the county. It must be offered to Rama First Nations if any of the land under the rail bed was once part of a reserve. There is still a year to wait in this process. At some point, Ashley and Sarah will research this, possibly through a lawyer to determine the ownership history of the rail bed.
- 6. Pier at the Narrows** The fence around the pier has been completed thanks to the hard work of Annalynn and Paul. David Snutch commended them. The bill will go to Annalynn and she will forward it to Bob. She gave them a thank you note and cookies. The gate was installed by the contractor, it can be removed in the spring, when Paul plans to build a ramp onto the pier. The concrete blocks are no longer needed to block access to the pier. Sarah will find out if the blocks can be taken away by the township, or if we can remove them.
- Re the mess nearby at the trail head created by Hydro, this is the responsibility of the landowner ie the township. This work would be charged to the Committee. We will therefore organize a work bee and clean it up ourselves.
- 7. Washago Trans Canada Trail** Ben Reese has not yet heard back from Simcoe County re the proposed cantilevered walkway under the bridge. Steve has heard nothing from Simcoe County re a meeting with Michael Goodyear, Steve and Larry re the scope of a feasibility study, limiting it to the bridge since the rest of the trail is already there. Sarah advised: Christina of TCT & Brandon of Simcoe County contacted her and had lots of questions re the trail; they will get back to her.
- Steve will pick one of the 5 sections of this trail as the one to work on in 2021, advise Larry and the Committee will discuss it. The section from the bridge to Fairgrounds Road is township property, and is a ditch there, so would be the most costly to work on. [Sarah: will need permission from township to put the trail there.] The other sections are Simcoe county land and so the expense should be covered by Simcoe and Trans Canada Trails.
- David: We need to officially change the route from 169 to the parallel and safer roads. When the lockdown is over, we should walk the trail with a Simcoe County representative.
- 8. Signage** The sign for the loop trail will be done in April.
- ATV's on Lagoon City trail** Ashley advised we need to do a motion to council if we wish to ban ATV's for all trails. It will go to Ramara's legal department then to Council.

Sandra made a motion, seconded by Stefanie to request that Council ban ATV's on the Lagoon City trail on both rail beds between the Laguna Parkway entrance to Concession Road 7 from March 15 to July 31<sup>st</sup> every year, in order to protect the heron rookery. The motion passed, no one opposed it. We also recommend gates be installed, at the 6<sup>th</sup> concession and at the south east corner of the marine storage area.

**Heron Rookery signs:** The signs for the heron rookery should be up by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Larry proposes a large interpretive sign at the north and south ends of the rookery. The north end sign could be at the Concession 6 bridge and the south end at the sewage plant.

Stefanie and Mary will work on these signs, and consult with Ashley. They will decide what they want on them, and bring them back to the Committee in February. Sue has a sign-making contact.

**Parking signs at Bayshore** Steve at Bayshore Village is looking after these; they will be done in the spring.

**Snowmobile club signs at Lagoon City** Two signs have now been installed warning snowmobilers around the 2 curves north of the sewage plant, one halfway between the Concession 6 bridge and the sewage plant, the other at the south east corner of the marina storage area.

**Boundary Road to Casino trail** Sarah will remind Josh, ask him to remove the southbound signs on the trail which wrongly state that the trail ends. David suggests there should be a stop sign at the north end where the trail drops off to the Casino driveway and at the south Boundary Road end.

**'Share the Road' signage as per plan presented fall 2020** These are road signs for two busy roads, Muley Point Rd. and Road 47 for safety for cyclists on curves in the road. We were advised that a sign review was being done this winter, and these signs would be looked at. Sarah or Ashley will find out the status of the sign review and let us know.

Stefanie advised that Brandon of Simcoe County said Cycle Simcoe considers these signs to be essential for all official cycling routes recognized by them and their presence is a factor in whether a route is designated "official."

9. **Fundraising** Bob will re-send the list to everyone and asks that we add names of potential donors and tell him who on the list we can contact to solicit donations.

We are waiting to receive the fund-raising plan from Zach so we can complete it to submit to Council as required. Sarah: Zach will give us a template.

10. **Rail cars at Side road 20 and Concession 9** These rail cars could be a great historical/educational feature associated with the Ramara trails which are largely built on former rail beds. Adrienne Davies, president of the Ramara Historical Society told Janet the RHS has been looking, in tandem with the township, for land on which to locate the rail cars. The cars could be used for storage & display of their historical artifacts. They are not in a position to do anything right now. Janet also spoke with Jim Gough, one of the directors of the Ramara Historical Society. He provided some interesting information on the rail history of Ramara. He would be willing to help with historical signage and with fund-raising.

11. **Work bee** Several of us spent a couple of hours flagging the surveyed route along Side road 15 and through the Talisker property for the proposed boardwalk trail.

**12. Report on non-member volunteers** Sarah has been speaking to the Clerk's department on this issue. We will need to give the township the names of any volunteers, tasks being done, a list of any tools/equipment being used, and volunteers will need some training. Sarah will send us the memo as soon as she receives it.

**13. Objectives for 2021**

**Pier fencing**---done

**Signage**---Heron rookery sign should be up by April 1st

**Final offer to landowner of rail bed made, accepted or rejected**

**Increase membership** 4 people from Bayshore are interested. Larry will write to council for permission to increase membership. Kris Puvel a director with Orillia Lake Country reached out to Larry. He is willing to help with marketing & grants. Also Roger Selman president of the Chamber of Commerce.

**LSRCA permit for construction on Side Road 15** Sarah sent Larry the hydrological study for the culverts. Larry will write to council for permission to apply for the permit, Sarah and Ashley will assist with the application.

**Meet with contractors to price helical piles for boardwalk**---will await outcome of offer to rail bed owner

**Summary of costs for boardwalk**---Paul estimated the cost(March 2020) at about \$306,000 for the structural elements of the boardwalk, plus \$100-105,000 for the helical piles

**Build trail along Side road 15 from Concession 7 road to the rail bed**

**Finalize plans for Washago trail**---Steve is working on this

**Proceed with fund-raising for boardwalk**--- pending offer to rail bed owner

**Establish path for board walk, remove brush and small trees**---pending offer

**14. Other Business**

Sarah advised of **new requirements** from the township: notice must be given by posting on social media of any work bees, including maintenance or construction work being done on trails. We will advise Ashley and she will post the information.

We are required to establish a sub-committee for fund-raising. The members will be the same for both committees. Councillors will not be involved in fund-raising. The meetings will likely be held on the same day, in sequence.

Janet advised of accessibility regulations in Ontario, as advised by Cathy Wainman. We must provide public notice when building a new recreational trail or making significant alterations to a trail. There are requirements as to width of a trail(1 metre), signage and other.

Janet asked Cathy Wainman if minutes of the Trails Committee could be posted on the Ramara.ca website, to inform new members, increase public awareness and serve as a reference.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Our next meeting is Thursday February 25 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.