

MINUTES OF RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING –February 25, 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	
Kate White	
Jack Heitzner	
Tigera Longstreet	
Laura Readman	
Dave Readman	
David Snutch	Councillor
Jennifer Fisher	Councillor
Sarah Karabin	Ramara Works Department
Ashley Watson	Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator

REGRETS

Paul Grunsten

1. Welcome Larry welcomed 5 new members: Dave and Laura Readman, Jack Heitzner, Kate White and Tigera Longstreet. We all introduced ourselves, our backgrounds and locations in the township.
2. The minutes from the January 28 meeting have already been approved. Janet advised that minutes can be found on the Ramara.ca website, under C for committees, then look for Trails.
3. **Financial Report** Bob advised we have a total of about \$38,000 now, \$30,000 from the Township for 2021, 8,100 in reserve and Commuter Cycling Grant(CCG to be spent by end of 2021 on the Lagoon City trail).
4. **Grant updates**
Simcoe County Connecting Communities grant: This is a matching grant from the county for up to \$30,000. The **deadline to apply is March 19th**. Ashley: we should get the application within the next few days.
Trans Canada trails Spring Maintenance grant: Ashley has not yet received the information from TCT; usually TCT advises end of Feb and applications are made in **March**.

TCT Washago Trail funding: There is one portion of the trail about 80 metres west and south of 169, we estimate a cost of \$7000, after we do the brushing. TCT will fund 35% of the cost. They will consider contributions “in kind” in calculating their share. We need permissions from Ramara and Simcoe County first.

Simcoe County Tourism Culture & Sport This grant is a maximum of \$10,000 to the Township, which must be matched 25% by the Township. The deadline to apply is **March 31st**. Ashley advised she has another application for drones and photography equipment. This grant can apply to signs.

5. **Side Road 15 & Staff Report** Bob received the agenda of Ramara’s Committee of the Whole meeting for March 1st which contained Ramara Staff Report AD-10-21 recommending that the proposed trail on Side Road 15 not be “considered for construction” because of safety concerns with 2 aerodromes in the vicinity and a suggested motion to that effect. The Committee had no previous notice and was not consulted on this report.

This Lagoon City-SR 15-Con.7 trail was presented to Council in December of 2009, was made part of Ramara’s Active Transportation Plan in 2010 and also is part of Ramara Parks and Rec Master Plan 2012. The Committee presented to Council on October 19 2020 that this trail is our major project for 2021-22 and is the “missing link” to a continuous cycling route around Lake Simcoe. Council then approved the requested \$30,000 grant to start work on Side Road 15. Our new member Jack Heitzner is a recently retired air traffic controller. He noted that the Canada Flight Supplement shows re runway 08-26 there are trees 300 feet west. There are 40 foot tall power lines.

The safety aspect is questionable: He notes that the aerodromes are not busy, are used by single engine aircraft, are not instrument certified, so follow visual flight rules. Concession Road 7 which is 200 feet away has vehicles on it all the time. He notes that Toronto City Centre Airport which is a busy passenger airport allows tall ships to pass nearby.

He does not think that safety is a real concern.

Procedure: on March 1st, council will vote whether to approve the motion. Whatever the decision on the motion, it will be sent to the March 8 meeting of Council to be ratified. If the committee wishes to present a deputation, it must be sent to Jennifer Connor by Wednesday March 3.

Larry asked if the motion on March 1 could be deferred.

David Snutch advised it will take votes of 4 councillors to defeat the motion. Members will be calling councillors to request that they deny the motion.

Ashley will advise us as to whether a “no” vote on March 1 can be overturned on March 8.

6. **Heron Rookery Gates** Bob shared the screen with Paul’s plan of the gates which will block ATV’s during the nesting season from April 1- August 1. The cost estimate is \$2000 for each set of gates, total is \$4000 plus installation. Gates on the market are too short and do not limit access by ATV’s. The committee will install them and Dave will get prices for us for aluminum(no painting) and steel and will do the welding. Larry has emailed John Pinsent to ask

if permission is required from Council, no reply as yet. Ashley: need to get permission request to Council.

7. **Washago Trail** Sarah advised re ownership of trail sections as follows:

Singing Pines from Rama Rd to west side of Doner Dr-- **Ramara Township**

West side of Doner Dr. to East side of Doner Dr. and across pedestrian bridge to West end of Little Falls Rd.-- **Simcoe County**

Little Falls Road--- private, Sarah will confirm

East of Little Falls to South River—County

McNeice Rd—Ramara

Howlyn Pines—Ramara

Trail between Triangle lots beside Black River---Sarah will advise

Bridge ---County

Land on N. side of 169 east of Black River— Simcoe County road allowance, then Ramara

The committee will send a request to Council for March 8 for approval to build the Washago Trail from Rama Road to Cooper's Falls. After we get that approval, we will contact Simcoe County to request approval for its sections.

This trail could be funded 100% by TCTrails, if we have the appropriate application. They will fund 35% of cost, taking our volunteer labour at \$25/hour into account. Steve volunteered to keep track of our volunteer time. Or Ashley said she can set up a time-keeping spreadsheet which we can input on the Ramara website.

8. Signage Heron rookery sign re ATV's Stefanie has designed them and has a quote for \$96. They are to be placed either end of rookery where the gates will go(SE corner of boat yard & trail at Concession 6 bridge). Stefanie sent the design to Ashley to add the trails logo and order the signs.

Interpretive signs Lagoon City Stefanie and Mary are working on these. They will highlight the importance of the rookery, the wetlands, turtles, railway history. We plan also to have a map & large sign at the trail head at Laguna Parkway.

Washago Free signs are available from Trans Canada. Once we get Ramara and County approval, we can apply for signs. Ramara will install signs on its property, the County will do the same. The TCT often installs signs on existing infrastructure. [There is a separate grants programme for signs if needed for installation.]

Steve will figure out how many signs are needed and request from TCT once we have required permissions.

Heritage sign Rama & Con. 12 Larry: we will wait until we can apply for grants for interpretive signage and apply for landscaping around the sign if covered. Annalynn will research the cost of shrubs and aggregate and advise.

Share the Road The Committee requested 11 of these signs for safety on 47 and Muley Point Rd. and were advised the township is reviewing all signs and would get back to us. Stefanie forwarded new type signs saying "Give cyclists space" and prescribing a distance of 1.5m between car & bicycle. Tigera will reach out to an officer in Severn who has a contact for signs. Ashley: we need to write to council to request a staff report on signs.

9. Objectives for 2021

Pier fencing—completed

Signage—Heron Rookery, Share the Road and Wayfinding—see par. 8

Heron Rookery gates—design completed, Dave will get price, we will install as soon as frost is out

Increase membership—completed, one position open

Finalize plans for Washago trail—underway

LSRCA permit for Side Road 15—awaiting outcome of motion at COW March 1

Tender Trail Building for SR 15—same

Build trail on SR 15—goal to do this spring if we get permit

Meet contractors to price Helical Piles & Postech piles—same, Dave will research piles

Summary of Costs Boardwalk--

Proceed with fundraising for boardwalk--

10. Work bees

Cut 80 m. trail for Washago from Howlyn Pines to 169—awaiting permits and grants

Paint & install gates for Rookery---installation may be an issue at Concession 6 bridge, on the edge of the rail bed

Other projects for spring:

Clean up downed tree at Queen St. and trail head

Spring Maintenance

Install signage

Deliver Paul's picnic table to 6th Con.

Build ramp at entrance to Narrows pier

11. Possible projects requiring Research/Ideas

Railway Historical Interpretive Signage—Janet has been in touch with Historical Society, no detailed information for signage as yet

Educate Public re Cleaning up Dog Waste on trail—Sandra will look into whether the Lagoon City community could provide bags, a trash bin and empty it

Signage/Mapping for unofficial Lagoon City trails—A map and directional signs with colour-coded arrows and/or names would be helpful. Mary may know someone interested. We will defer this.

Cycling club—suggested if someone wishes to organize

Birdhouses, benches—same

12. Other Business

Annalynn has walked the Ramara trail from Atherley with different groups of people. There is a lot of interest from these walkers & others in extending it to Airport Road, which has been planned for some time. This would be funded 25% by TCT and 75% through a First Nations government grant, so 0% from the Township. The township advises that this extension has to await negotiations of other issues between the township and Casino and First Nations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Our next meeting is March 18 at 7:00 p.m.