

MINUTES OF RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING –March 18, 2021 7:00 PM via ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Larry Barton Chair
Bob Masching Vice Chair
Paul Grunsten
Annalynn Faulkner
Janet Masching Secretary
Steve Weinberg
Sandra Banks
Mary Miller
Laura Readman
Dave Readman

David Snutch Councillor
Jennifer Fisher Councillor
Sarah Karabin Ramara Works Department
Ashley Watson Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator

REGRETS

Stefanie Moy-Shuster
Kate White
Jack Heitzner
Tigera Longstreet

1. Larry welcomed everyone.
2. There were no questions re the minutes of the meeting of February 25th.
3. **Financial Report** Bob advised there has been no change. The total balance including Township allocation and reserve funds is about \$38,000.

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 and Bob will be meeting tomorrow to finalize the application, which will be for the Side Road 15 to Concession 7 proposed trail.

Trans Canada trails Spring Maintenance grant: Janet, Annalynn and Paul have put together the information. Ashley will be completing and submitting the application. The work includes: erosion repair at various spots, a sign at Fern Resort pointing to the Monck trail, shrubs and rocks around heritage sign and ramp to the pier at the Narrows.

TCT Washago Trail funding: Nothing new to report. We need ownership information, then permissions from Ramara and Simcoe County before applying for grant. Also details of any agreement re Howlyn Pines Road.

Simcoe County Tourism Culture & Sport This grant is a maximum of \$10,000 to the Township, which must be matched by the Township. The deadline to apply is **March 31st**. The existing township application is only for \$2000, so there is room. We are considering small cycling trail signs from Concession 7 & SR 15 to Atherley. Grant funds: “fabrication & installation of tourism wayfinding signage, trailhead signage and/or cycling signage. “ Larry advised that several people have complained re the lack of signs. This would require approval by the township. A motion was made and carried that the Committee should apply for a small grant.

Ontario Trillium Foundation The capital stream of funding opens up later in 2021. This is a possible source of funds to apply for to build the boardwalk trail.

5. **Side Road 15** Councillors passed a motion on March 15 directing the Committee to proceed as planned with the trail up Side Road 15 toward Concession 7. The part of SR 15 along the “private driveway” to Concession 7 is under review, as the township reviews the terms of the agreement with the adjacent landowner to see if it has to be modified.

--**Skelton Brumwell Hydrological Study** The study was completed in 2018 with an error regarding location of the culverts. Larry has communicated several times requesting a correction. Michael Wynia advised him the corrected report will be done as soon as possible.

--**Permit from LSRCA** to proceed with pricing, tendering, building: the next step is for the township to apply, once the above two issues are resolved.

6. Washago Trail

Council gave permission on March 8 to proceed with the trail, from Rama Road to Howlyn Pines, then on township property along the river to 169.

Ownership information: Sarah has advised as to the missing information, namely that Little Falls is owned by the County and the land by the Black River between the triangle lots is Ramara road allowance.

The complete ownership list is:

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, along Little Falls Road, east of LF Road to South River.-- **Simcoe County**

McNeice Rd—**Ramara**

Howlyn Pines—**Ramara**

Trail between Triangle lots beside Black River---**Ramara** unopened road allowance, then County road allowance

Bridge ---**Simcoe County**

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

Sarah will advise us re any agreement affecting Howlyn Pines Road.

Sign Update Steve has prepared a plan of the proposed signage along the Washago trail. Trans Canada Trails will provide free signage. The signs should include the Ramara and Simcoe logos,

as the trail is built on both their lands. They will be ordered later once the Committee has permits and the grant. Discussion re a trail head sign at Rama Road and Singing Pines: there are no signs along Rama Road, so there is a need for a large sign there.

Volunteer Hours We will have to keep good track of our hours. TCT will fund 35% of the cost of work, and will consider our work as “in kind” contribution at \$25/hour. Both physical work and other work are included. Ashley is setting up an online time-keeping system.

Grant application: the next step, after Simcoe County permission, is to discuss grant application with Ashley, Janet & TCT staff.

7. Heron Rookery & Wetland protection

Approval of gates is going to Council on March 22nd. Discussion re benefit to rookery of installing gates and signs asap with one-time noise of installation versus waiting until August 15 and allowing ATV traffic on the rail bed in the meantime. The gates are to be installed at some distance from the rookery.

Installation & materials price; Larry has a quote from Johnston Fences for \$975 for the 2 sets plus HST, to include 4 holes, sono tubes, concrete and labour.

Dave Readman priced materials for the 4 gate sections at \$700 plus HST for aluminum. Steel is half the price, but aluminum requires no painting or maintenance. He will order aluminum posts and will advise re a delivery date. He can do the work within the next 2 weeks. The gates will need reflectors.

Signs: A temporary “No Vehicles” sign has been installed at the SE corner of the boat yard. We will get the sign from Josh and install it temporarily on the 6th concession bridge.

Interpretive Signs: on hold for now.

8. Objectives for 2021

Signage—Heron Rookery see par.7. Share the Road signs are to be deferred as Road 47 will be under repair for the next couple of years. Wayfinding: depends on Simcoe County grant as per par. 4 above.

Heron Rookery gates—subject to Council approval, we will install as soon as possible

Finalize plans for Washago trail—in process

LSRCA permit for Side Road 15—we have Council approval, agreement to be reviewed then township will apply

Tender Trail Building for SR 15—township will tender once receive permit

Build trail on SR 15—goal to do this spring subject to permit

Meet contractors to price Helical Piles & Postech piles—Dave has contacted companies, no info as yet. Paul will do drawings if required.

Summary of Costs Boardwalk--

Proceed with fundraising for boardwalk--

Increase membership—complete. One new Washago member has applied to Council.

9. Work Bees

Install gates to protect rookery

Install ramp at the pier—Paul plus

Remove downed tree on Atherley trail Queen St. trail head

Spring maintenance: Larry will walk the Lagoon City trail and see what has to be done. Paul & Annalynn will do the same on the Atherley trail.

Deliver Paul's picnic table to Concession 6 bridge area

Cut 80 metre path for Washago Trail Howlyn Pines to 169: once permits etc. in order

Clean-up on trails: Washago: Steve, David Snutch and Tigera will do. Atherley: Paul & Annalynn. Lagoon City rail bed & Concession 4 to Brechin: Larry. Lagoon City private land trails: Sandra and Mary.

10. Possible projects requiring research

Sandra consulted other residents re dog waste on Lagoon City trail: the consensus was not to supply plastic bags which would create more waste on trails.

Jennifer suggested QR codes for signs which could link to GIS info and also provide interpretive/historical information.

11. Other Business

Cycling lane on roads up for improvement: David Snutch advised there is general support among councillors for cycling lanes when roads such as Road 47 are being developed.

Meeting adjourned around 8:40.

Our next meeting is Thursday April 15 at 7:00 via Zoom.