

## MINUTES OF RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING –May 13, 2021 7:00 PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDANCE

Larry Barton	Chair
Bob Masching	Vice Chair
Paul Grunsten	
Annalynn Faulkner	
Janet Masching	Secretary
Steve Weinberg	
Mary Miller	
Laura Readman	
Dave Readman	
Kate White	
Jack Heitzner	
Stefanie Moy-Shuster	
Sandra Banks	
Tigera Longstreet	
Ashley Watson	Ramara Business & Communications Coordinator
David Snutch	Councillor
Jennifer Fisher	Councillor

1. Larry welcomed everyone.
2. There were no questions re the minutes from the April 15 meeting, previously approved.
3. **Story Board presentation by Rebecca Taylor**

Laura introduced Rebecca. The Ramara Library has signed up for a project called The TD Summer Reading Program (funded by TD Bank, Toronto Public Library and Library Archives of Canada). The goal is to encourage families to get out on the trails while involving their children in story telling. It consists of 20 laminated, professionally illustrated & printed story boards to be placed along the trail from June 13 to Labour day. The story is aimed at children ages 2-8 but is enjoyed by older kids too. Installation to be done by library staff.

Rebecca made a formal request to partner with Ramara township to go ahead with this project. A motion was made by Dave Readman, seconded by Sandra Banks, all in favour: the committee grants permission to Rebecca/Ramara library to move forward on this project.

Rebecca will contact the principals of the schools in Ramara to advise them of the story boards on the trail(s).

We will need to decide and advise Rebecca by the end of May as to which trails should have the boards. She suggested having them on the Atherley trail for a few weeks, then moving them to the Lagoon City trail. We are agreed that exposure to more community members is a good idea. Ashley will ask permission from John Pinsent to go ahead with this project.

#### 4. **Financial Report**

Bob presented the Finances Project Allocation for the Side Road 15 trail and the Atherley TCT maintenance work. The funds available are \$70,000 and total cost is estimated at \$67,500 leaving a cushion of \$2499.

Dave asked what we will do if Side Road 15, our first priority trail, does not go ahead this year. Options are: building the trail north of the Casino, asking Ramara to add the funds allocated for 2021 to our reserve. We would have to amend the grant request to the County.

#### 5. **Grant Updates**

Simcoe County Connecting Communities—Ashley has not yet heard from the County, usually hears first week of June

TCT spring maintenance grant \$1000—Ramara has received the grant, not all spent yet

Ontario Trillium Foundation—on hold until later in 2021

#### 6. **Washago Trail Updates**

**Surveys**—Larry has quotes from three surveyors of \$2200, 3600 and 1628. The adjoining landowner will contribute to some of the cost. None of these estimates included a plan. The township would like a plan, and it likely would be something the landowner will prefer. Larry will contact the two lowest bidders and see which is cheapest. We agreed he can engage the company with the lowest bid.

**Guard Rails**—Steve took photos where the guard rails are to be cut on 169 to allow trail users through. Larry forwarded them to Brendan at the county who has sent them to the engineers for advice. Another option would be to direct the trail further west, trail users could step over the steel cable which is low to the ground.

**Volunteer hours**—Ashley has made a template on which we can record hours of volunteer work. She reviewed the form. The link to the form can be installed on a phone, tablet or computer. You enter the date, tick off the trail name, enter the time spent, comments if any. She will remove the signature to streamline the process. Data will be stored on an Excel spreadsheet and Ashley will give us the report monthly.

The purpose of this record of volunteer time is to help us with future grant applications.

**TCT meeting summary**—Larry, Steve, Janet, Bob and Ashley met on May 7 with Christina Giffen and Kristen Gabora, Trail Development Manager, of Trans Canada trails. Kristen, based in Saskatchewan, is now in charge of funding for the Washago trail as TCT is focused now on programmes rather than regions. Larry laid out: the initial community request for the proposed trail, safety priority in diverting the trail off busy Cty Rd 169 and our need for funding to preferably cover the entire cost of the project. TCT normally funds 35% of the cost. Included in that cost is donations from other sources, in-kind contributions such as screenings and the value of township labour costs. Contrary to previous advice, Kristen advised it is hard to get credit for volunteer contributions. [We have amassed 160 hours on this trail, and project an additional 100 hours.]

We emphasized that this short section of 80 metres is a missing link that will connect the trail now running from Rama Road to Fairgrounds Road, a total length of 2 km. Ultimately the plan is to link the Washago trail to a proposed trail coming from the south running along the old CNR

rail bed from Airport Road to Washago. Ashley agreed to send maps to Kristen of the Washago trail, and the surrounding linking trails.

### **Budget**

Bob: we have a quote for construction of the trail of \$10,074, plus survey 1628, and culvert estimated at 2500 for a total of \$14,202. The survey cost will be higher now with the added cost of a plan.

**Grant Application** Ashley and Janet will be putting together the grant application. Ashley will notify First Nations and Severn as the nearest municipality. Steve and David Snutch will work on a letter of community support.

### 7. **Side Road 15 Trail updates**

--Hydrological Study by Skelton Brumwell has been corrected re the culvert locations.

--Landowner Agreement re portion of Side Road 15 shared by landowner and Ramara:

Josh plans to meet with owner this week to complete some details re this agreement

--LSRCA permit application: Josh will be able to proceed with this application once landowner agreement is resolved

Estimate for cost of construction is \$60,000

Dave Readman will not be contacting the suppliers of helical piles for boardwalks, until we receive information from the township re the status of the rail bed negotiations.

### 8. **Heron Rookery Gates**

The gates designed by Paul and constructed by Dave were installed on April 21<sup>st</sup> by Dave and Jack with audience of Kate, Laura, Paul and Larry at a distance. Josh installed the heron rookery protection sign at the Concession 6 bridge.

### 9. **Picnic Table at Concession 6**, the '3 bridges' area. Dave and Jack placed the table on the old railway bridge. Thank you Paul for building and donating the table to the Ramara trails.

### 10. **Tree bombing**—Mary made an interesting presentation on yarn bombing. Outdoor yarn is available, which does not fade, cost ranges from \$2-35 a skein. Acrylic is affordable. The cost is about \$100 per tree, depending on the size. Another option is coloured burlap strips, more environmentally friendly, but expensive.

Re: potential effect on the tree, the yarn/burlap may encourage insects, algae on the tree.

Some advocate having the tree wrapped only for April, May & June. Also, a looser weave may be better for the tree. Or it could be done on non-living structures.

Discussion re potential of doing this for fund-raising. A specific donation entitles you to decorate a tree. Or a competition between families to raise money.

Next steps: Mary and Sandra will make a presentation at our next meeting on a yarn-bombing project for the trail. Once approved, we will ask Ramara for permission to proceed.

### 11. **Heritage sign** The landscaping has been postponed, awaiting delivery of donated rocks.

### 12. **Public Consultation**—Ashley

All trails must comply with the technical requirements for recreational trails set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act(AODA). The Act requires "public consultation" with people with disabilities re certain aspects of trail construction or improvement.

Ramara will post information on its website regarding details of the two trails now projected to be built this year. People will then be able to respond on the 'Reach out Ramara' page. The info will also be on social media and in Orillia Matters.

Ashley will post a GIS map of the trails, and will advise us on what information she will need from the Committee to provide the website content needed for this process.

13. **Work Bees**

Heron Gates—complete

Heron Rookery Signage—complete

Picnic Table—complete

Ramp at Pier—complete

Trail Head at Atherley—to be scheduled

Spring Maintenance—to be scheduled

Bench moved to pier—" "

Howlyn Pines trail path---" "

14. **2021 Objectives**

--Finalize plans for Washago trail

--Acquire LSRCA permit for SR 15

--Tender SR 15

--Build trail on SR 15

--Meet contractors re helical piles

--Summarize boardwalk costs

--Fundraising for boardwalk

15. Other

**Social media** The committee would like to have a greater presence on social media, in particular on Instagram. The Ramara Township website is good for informational purposes and maps. The committee would like to promote the trail to the community with frequent postings of photos on Instagram.

Kate has requested that she take over the Instagram for Ramara Trails and be able to post photos. Stefanie had previously set up an Instagram account that isn't tied to the township.

She stopped posting at the Township's direction.

Motion passed: to request Ashley to inquire of John Pinsent as to the Committee posting directly to its own Instagram account.

Our next meeting is Thursday June 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.