

MINUTES OF RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING—December 2, 2021 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

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|-------------------|---|
| Larry Barton | Chair |
| Bob Masching | Vice Chair |
| Paul Grunsten | |
| Janet Masching | Secretary |
| Steve Weinberg | |
| Annalynn Faulkner | |
| Sandra Banks | |
| Mary Miller | |
| Kate White | |
| Jack Heitzner | |
| Jennifer Fisher | Councillor |
| Jon Popple | Manager, Community Standards, Recreation and Facilities |
| Mike Bunn | Guest |

REGRETS

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| David Snutch | Councillor |
| Laura Readman | |
| Dave Readman | |
| Tigera Longstreet | |

1. Welcome Larry welcomed everyone.
2. Minutes There were no questions or corrections.
3. Bob: We will know the final balance for 2021 once Four Brothers have finished work on the Washago trail, and Ashley advises where we stand re Ramara's labour costs, which are taken into account by Trans Canada in determining the amount of the grant. We expect the balance to be about \$32,000 unspent from 2021. Nothing else has changed since last month's report. Council approved the committee's request to carry forward the \$32,000 and granted the request of \$40,000 for 2022, so that our total funding will be \$132,000 for next year, assuming a further \$30,000 Simcoe County matching grant. The \$30,000 Simcoe County 2021 grant carry forward must be spent on Side Road 15 matched with \$30,000 of Ramara funding, and this work is to be done before any 2022 work is done. This will leave \$72,000 for other projects. Larry: our next meeting in January will be to discuss projects and priorities for 2022. Larry gives a big "thank you" to Council and Ramara's financial department for supporting trails in Ramara and approving the biggest grant this committee has ever received. He notes some negativity in comments on the internet by other parties re the township. It is important for committee members to stay positive; any issues with the township should be addressed to our councillor or by deputation to council, not online.

4.
 - A) **Howlyn Pines trail**—This trail is finished except for the cutting of the guardrail at 169. Steve will check Friday morning and advise Larry if the guardrail has been done. Re signage, we have not heard yet if the two trail head signs and the wayfinding signs have been delivered by Trans Canada. Action: Larry will follow up on the signs in the new year.
 - B) **Side Road 15 & Beaver Issues**—Jon: the trapper has set the traps. In the spring, Josh will remove the dams and get rid of the water.
 - C) **Casino - Airport Road** --Jon: there is no update as yet from Zach. Larry notes that this trail will be a 2022 project.
 - D) **Talisker agreement**—Jon: Council has discussed this, talks are ongoing, no progress for now.

5. **Atherley gates** Jon is pleased to report that after tender was sent out, Johnston Fencing offered to donate their labour and the materials for both gates, for construction and installation. Fri at 1:30 Larry, Paul, Annalynn and Bob will meet at the trail head to decide on the location of these 2 gates, plus another which may be built in the spring, using Trans Canada and other money. Jon: the Trans Canada application for the \$1000 fall maintenance grant was approved. Snowmobile club—Annalynn: The club will donate \$800 to Ramara for gates. Bob will follow up with Audrey to see if the money has been paid. This will go toward the 3rd set of gates.

6. **Special Features**

Mary: they have more butterflies which they will hang, two on the Washago trail and two on the Atherley trail.

Mary and Sandra are trying to get more schoolkids involved, and possibly do an afternoon on the trail with hot chocolate to encourage community involvement in education.

They will have more ideas to present in the spring.

Sandra would like to do a laminated sign at the Lagoon City entrance, welcoming everyone, requesting they keep the trail clean and advising that the trail is for everyone.

Sandra will send a short article to the Lagoon City newsletter with a reminder re sharing the trail with all users. She will forward this to Kate to be inserted in the Bayshore Banner. For future reference, other newsletters in the area are those of the Lake St. John Cottage and Homeowners Association, North Mara Beach Residents Association and the Washago Villager.

7. **County Road 47** Larry notes that the trail on 47 is really for cyclists; walkers use Lakeshore. Others agree. Discussion re township plans to build a cycling trail in the ditch along 47, versus a cycling trail on the road. The opportunity to address this issue will not come again. The committee will write to Josh, with a copy to council members, requesting that the township build wider shoulders on both sides of 47 which will be a user-friendly alternative for cyclists. He will also request a comparison of the costs of this alternative and of the trail built in the ditch. Larry will draft a letter and send it to Janet for editing.

8. **Mechanism for Committee to participate in Planning & Infrastructure** Deb McCabe has already committed that she will include this committee in circulations re future developments.

Re infrastructure, Jon advises that Josh will consult with Jon and the committee regarding ongoing plans.

9. Other Business

Hydro One has a new **grant** of \$25,000 which may be available for trails. Larry will send us all the link so we can discuss at our next meeting. The deadline to apply is the end of January.

Trans Canada is holding a **webinar** the week of December 13. Larry has emailed the details. He is not able to attend. It would be good if others would.

Social Media: Kate advises that Ashley has been working on this, but has not yet been able to shut down the old Facebook account, so that a new one can be set up. Kate has technical difficulties in closing her personal Trails Facebook account. She has been posting photos on Instagram of the Howlynn Pines trail.

Our next meeting will be Thursday January 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.