

MINUTES OF RAMARA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING –April 15, 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	

David Snutch	Councillor
Jennifer Fisher	Councillor
Teri Nelson	Guest

REGRETS

Stefanie Moy-Shuster
Sandra Banks
Tigera Longstreet

1. Larry welcomed everyone. No one from Ramara Township staff is in attendance.
2. There were no questions re the minutes of the meeting of March 18th.
3. **Financial Report** Bob advised there is a total budget of about \$70,000 for this year, 30,000 from Ramara, 30,000 expected from Simcoe, 2000 from TCT and 8000 in reserve(which includes 2000 from the Commuter Cycling Grant. The report was approved.
4. **Grant Updates**
 - Simcoe County Connecting Communities Grant—submitted March 19
 - TCT Spring Maintenance Grant—submitted March 19
 - TCT Grant for Washago trail—we have permissions from Ramara and Simcoe, names of owners of adjoining properties for the 80 metre section from Howlyn Pines to 169. Will apply once have determined the route and cost for that part
 - Simcoe County Tourism Culture & Sport Grant—this requires equal matching funds. We could have applied for road wayfinding signage, but did not with other priorities this year & budget constraints. [Janet & Larry have drafted signage plans for the Gamebridge-Lagoon City and Con.7-Atherley road trails for future use]
 - Ontario Trillium Foundation—will look to apply for a grant later in 2021

5. Side Road 15 Updates

Ramara Council approved the Side Road 15 trail on March 8th.

No information from Ramara yet as to its possible agreement with adjoining landowner re a portion of SR15 being used as a private driveway. Janet will follow up with Ashley Watson. Skelton Brumwell Hydrological Study—Matt Bertram, Project Engineer from Skelton has been in contact with Larry regarding correcting the location of the culverts on the map. Once this is done, the township will apply for the LSRCA permit, which may take 6 weeks.

6. Washago Trail Updates

We have the permissions now from Ramara(March 8) and Simcoe County(March 29) to work on this trail which is to parallel 169 from Rama Road to Fairgrounds Road and provide a safer route for walkers and cyclists.

We are advised there is no agreement re Howlyn Pines between the township and adjoining owners.

Our next project is to build the part of the trail through bush on the Ramara road allowance between the triangle lots along the Black River. Larry, David, Jennifer, Bob, Janet & Steve will be meeting with the adjoining landowners on April 17 to advise them of the proposed trail, find survey markers and see if there are any concerns.

Volunteer hours—Bob will provide a list of tasks to Ashley to include on the drop-down menu for recording our hours spent on this trail.

7. Lagoon City Trail

Heron Rookery gates—Dave Readman has built the gates. The posts have been installed. Dave will purchase locks, and send all the bills to Bob.

A work bee to install gates is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Wed April 21st. with Larry, Paul, Dave, Laura. Paul will bring the picnic table which he is donating to go on the 1911 bridge.

Signage for Rookery--Larry will ask Josh to give us the 2nd heron rookery sign, to be installed on the gate at the Concession 6 bridge.

Mapping—Teri Nelson showed us the detailed map she has prepared of all the Lagoon City trails, both Ramara and private landowner(Talisker) trails. This map can be loaded on a phone, or uploaded to All Trails or other trails applications. The map is 11x17" and can be quadrupled in size. Teri has offered to assist in mapping trails and suggests some rules, re not taking firewood etc.

Discussion re posting of map at entrance. Trails committee should not post maps of non-Ramara trails for liability reasons. Teri will speak with Sandra Banks, Social Director of Lagoon City Community Association regarding posting the map of all trails for the benefit of the community. Discussion re maps of trails could be added to Ramara maps as an additional layer if the Talisker trails are developed. Larry: the goal is eventually to have all trails in the township mapped.

Talisker agreement The lease agreement between Ramara and Talisker for multi-use trails on Talisker lands expires in October 2022. Larry, Janet and Bob met with John Pinsent and Nathan McLachlan the Talisker representative on January 11. Nathan is agreeable to extending the lease substantially and he and John said this would be done within a short time frame. John advised he is meeting with Talisker next week and will advise Larry on the status of the lease.

8. **Work Bees**

Heron Rookery gates---to be installed April 21.

Signage for heron rookery---same

Deliver picnic table—same

Install Ramp at pier—done by Paul. He will send Bob bill for materials

Spring trail clean-up—the downed tree to be cleaned up, date to be determined. Dave Readman has offered to help

Cement blocks—no decision as yet

Spring Maintenance---Paul: need 2-3 yards of gravel at different locations. He will look into getting them delivered to different spots. We can then spread them.

Bench—to be moved onto pier

Cut trail path from Howlyn Pines to 169—TBD after Saturday meeting to determine if survey etc. needed

9. **Objectives for 2021**

Finalize plans for Washago Trail from Rama Rd to 169

Heron Rookery gates

Acquire LSRCA permit for Side Road 15

Tender SR 15 Trail

Build SR 15 Trail

Meet Contractors re Helical Piles

Summary of Boardwalk costs

Fundraising for Boardwalk

10. **Other Items**

Update on **County Road 47** construction—Larry asked David S and Jennifer to keep the cycling trail in mind

Heritage Sign—A contact from Joe Gough has offered to provide free rocks and transport them. Dan Long will provide a fork lift to move them. Discussion re a landscaper to advise on placement and David S idea re holding a contest to decide placement.

Signage & Other ideas—In order to add interest to the Lagoon City trail, Janet mentioned ‘yarn bombing’ which is knit/crochet band(s) stitched around trees.

Also, landmarks to be highlighted: white pine on loop trail, two birches, beaver stump, wooden platform beside main rail bed trail. These could be part of a scavenger hunt, items for schoolkids to find. Geocaching on the trail. Signs could recommend apps for trail users to identify flowers, trees and bird songs.

Beaver trapping Larry has seen beaver trapping at the 5th and 6th concessions. Strange because we have built the trail so there are no issues from dams. The township does sub-contract for trapping. Jennifer: landowners can get permission to trap if “imminent damage” is likely from flooding caused by dams. Janet will ask Ashley to see if staff authorized the trapping.

Members and Volunteers Larry has had many people asking to join the committee. We do not need more than 15 members. Too many members can cause an issue with quorum. Council has 2 applicants for the one remaining position. It does not wish to exclude anyone. Council will address this issue at the meeting on Monday.

At times we may need workers. They must be on the 'volunteer list' for insurance reasons. We can use help for maintenance and other work bees, and will need lots of assistance if we are fundraising for a boardwalk trail.

Trail signs in Parking lot at Bayshore Village---Jack and Kate will see if installed and advise.

Boundary Rd-Casino removal of signs—Janet will follow up.

The meeting adjourned around 8:45.

Our next meeting will be Thursday May 13 at 7:00 via Zoom.