

## **Minutes of the Walking Village Committee ~ Monday June 08, 2015, 7pm – Bicycle Café**

### **1. Welcome / Additions to the Agenda**

The meeting was called to order by chair David Turner at 7:06 p

Attending: David Turner, Cara Sullivan, Julie Reitzel, Rosanne Caruso

Regrets: Rhonda Iadinardi (resigned – see under new business), Jon Gillette, Gary Gingras

### **2. Correspondence**

**Cathy Little** responded to our request for her to hold a Walk in the Kimberley Forest – enthusiasm from her and her board – we will seek a date in Aug – everyone on our email list will be invited.

**BVBT** responded to our offer of having David walk their group in the Flesherton Forest – we are seeking a summer date – everyone will be invited

**Jane's Walk:** B. MacKay responded to the annual Jane's Walk survey online. They also publish a print-on-demand annual book. To participate we need to send them hi-res photos and signed releases from all subjects. Cara has offered to take photos next year.

### **3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

**Roadside Signs** – a cheque was sent directly to Dunwood Sign printers in Dundalk. Barbara will ensure that they have the artwork (it was sent almost one year ago). The sign will be installed on the community sign on the east side of town in front of Fleshcon – they gave permission one year ago

**Insurance enquires** – much discussion continues on this issue.

David says we are covered by municipal insurance when we are walking in MGH.

Barbara says board members may still be vulnerable to personal liability if we don't have "directors insurance."

Cara says she is tired of hearing about it and we should do something or stop talking about it.

She suggests we should ask a lawyer. That also costs money.

See below and Trails Act news for more about insurance.

**Municipal Update** – no official word from Council regarding the three asks from the presentation made by Barbara and Cara – Asked for: "recognition," a website link, future partnership consideration, insurance. (Unofficially, Barbara heard that we have been granted all that we asked for – except insurance.) She will see if she can find "official" word on these decisions.

**Membership Drive** – membership cards / email list

Julie supplied a stack of new emails for our mailing list – from her employees and their parents!

Cara says are list is up to almost 50

**Corporate sponsors** – Gary not available

**Website updates** – All board members present have forwarded a photo to Jon Gillette who will photo-shop them together.

Cara and Barbara discussed improvements to the website content – these changes have been implemented

**BVBT and Kolapore** asked for reciprocal links – these requests have gone to their respective boards

### **Flesherton Hills –**

Barbara met with John Burton, fittingly, in the Flesherton Hills. He said that the Flesherton Hills could use a few improvements. The boardwalk at the Beaver ponds needs repair, the sign at the high school entrance needs replacing and the sign at Macphail parking lot – the “main” entrance to the Hills needs some work – notably some of the boulders need re-siting, after they were rearranged when the parking lot was expanded, and the ground in front of the sign needs to be trimmed and limestone surface re-added. Burton insists we can do this work – with him – on his say-so.

### **Walks Upcoming**

From the May meeting minutes, this was the first list for annual hikes:

February – snowshoe hike – location/guide can vary (Flesherton Hills is a good spot)

May – Jane’s Walk – theme and guide varies

June – Foraging Walk – David leads – location can vary – (there was previously a suggestion to do in with Kolapore with that group)

Summer – Councilor Walk - the first request will be made to Cathy Little for a walk in the Kimberley Forest or Trail

Summer - A garden walk in Markdale – we could work with the Horticultural Society (Barbara will speak with them) – early/high summer might be best time

Nancy Matthews will be asked to guide a Historic Walk in Markdale – late summer/fall

Also:

Rosanne will explore the idea of doing a Ghost Walk for October

At the meeting, members discussed dates, times and hike locations. Rosanne suggested that walks on Sunday afternoons were not good for tourists as they are often leaving then. Barbara said most local residents prefer Sunday to Saturday for hikes as Saturday is busy for kid sports and grocery shopping in most families. Sunday morning is not ideal, some of our regulars are church-goers. It was suggested that we alternate Sat. and Sun.

Cara suggest we put the dates on the website and that 4-6 walks is a good annual number. David agrees that he doesn’t want to do a walk every month.

Rosanne says some people need an explanation of what Foraging is – that could go on the website.

Barbara says some people have come to Foraging walks in the past and expected to gather dinner, so we should explain that it is educational, not a gathering expedition.

Some decisions are still pending, e.g exact dates but here are is the new list with revisions:

February – snowshoe hike – location/guide can vary (Flesherton Hills is a good spot)

May – Jane’s Walk – theme and guide varies

~~June~~ **Saturday July 11** was suggested for the summer Foraging Walk – David is NOT available in July. (there was previously a suggestion to do in with Kolapore with that group, but David says foraging is not best there).

Summer – Councilor Walk - Cathy Little will lead a walk in the **Kimberley Forest – date TBA**

Summer - A garden walk in Markdale – we could work with the Horticultural Society (Barbara will speak with them) – early/high summer might be best time (They have a garden tour planned for early July, Barbara will make contact)

Nancy Matthews will be asked to guide a Historic Walk in Markdale – late summer/fall – **see below**

Board member Rosanne said she would like to forego the idea of a Ghostwalk this October

In speaking with Nancy Matthews (Heritage Grey Highlands) who agreed to lead three heritage walks on **September 25, 26, 27, 2015** in Markdale, Priceville, Flesherton (these are the dates for Culture Days). Each one being lead by a different historian that Nancy knows. She is also able to make arrangements for a “doors open” at the churches in these villages.

Rosanne has offered to lead a “**Fall Colours Walking Tour**” perhaps with her husband, a horticulturalist and/or with David on the Lower Valley Road.

Barbara suggested meeting at the Hoggs Falls parking lot. Rosanne and Julie both suggested leaving the date “open” to determine best leaf looking.

#### **GBSusNet AGM**

Barbara attended the AGM in Chesley on behalf of the Walking Village. The chair of that committee is now a WV member – and he made a \$20 donation – thanks Bruce Davidson!

That evening, Barbara spoke with Barry Randall, the GM, about Trillium changes, he said they are significant, but also we can learn most of it by reading the website. He thought WV would be a good candidate for Seed Funding.

#### **4. New Business**

David, who also sits on the Flesherton Foundation (FF) board says that the **Flesherton Kinsmen** asked for money from the FF to install benches with the WV. (We did meet with them and agree benches would be okay). They received \$500 – which could mean two benches. David says it may be best to install them on private prop. One suggestion was for a bench at the entrance to the Flesherton Forest. Members are invited to suggest other areas – but only in the Village of Flesherton. We haven’t heard anything more from the Kinsmen about this yet.

**Grant opportunities** –Rosanne had some information about Trillium granting from the Heritage event she attended on behalf of Grey Highlands, with Nancy Matthews. There are now six “action areas” that are targeted. WV will need to be familiar with where we fit. She says that Trillium says they are making it easier for groups to apply and especially easier for volunteers to do so.

She agrees that Seed funding might be the best way to go.

Rosanne suggests we need also to be familiar with the Ontario Index of Well-Being as Trillium is using the same categories to structure its grant giving

Barbara says we need to register by July. There are several grant intakes in the course of one year.

Cara suggests that if we are doing some Strat Planning in Nov (see below) we might wait for grant apps until we know what we want

**Ontario Trails Act** – this hasn't yet passed, but may provide good news re trail insurance. It should be good news for all trail groups

**Municipal Grants** – Money is available to Community Groups (Barbara says we qualify). We will apply in Sept.

**Walking Village Brochures** – need to be reprinted. Barbara will get a quote. The GH Chamber of Commerce paid for the last reprinting.

Revisions can be made to the existing art.

ED: It should be noted that a wholesale redesign might be wanted after Nov. discussions (see below).

**Rhonda Iadinardi has** requested that we find a replacement for her on the board. She is taking a new job and her volunteer time is busy with her daughter's activities

Put your thinking caps on board members! We are well balanced for gender right now, but have no members from Markdale.

**Julie is unable to be our treasurer.** We can blame the American IRS (it's a long story). Barbara will be the acting treasurer (she does have the "jingle jar") and will look at opening an account with the Dundalk Credit Union.

**Rosanne** suggests we need to do some **strategic planning** and decide what the Walking Village is. Some members favour keeping things small and local. Others want to do more than hold free walks. There seem to be as many opinions as there are board members. Everyone seemed to agree that talking about our collective aims is a good idea.

Barbara suggests getting "governance" planning money from the Municipal grant and holding a day long retreat at Cedars.

Rosanne wonders who could facilitate.

David is having surgery in November – we could do it then, while he's not walking!

Rosanne donates \$20 to the WV. That brings out jingle jar total to \$85.

## **5. Next Meeting**

Monday, July 13, Location TBA