

Minutes

Walking Village Committee ~ Monday January 18, 2016, 7pm Barbara's

Attending: Cara Sullivan, David Turner, Gary Gingras, Barbara MacKay

Regrets: Julie Reitzel, Jon Gillette,

1. Welcome / Additions to the Agenda

One Addition – re Grey Cty Survey respondent – see New Biz

2. Correspondence

GG Trails group (hold for new Business)

Grey Cty survey (hold for new Business)

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Strategy Session with Mary Ferguson – follow-up. The sticky notes created by the working group appear to have been misplaced by Barbara. She stressed that it is the process that is important and suggests that she will use the Ferguson template – add in what she remembers – and circulate for others to add their notes. On the plus side, this will give Julie, Jon and Jane an opportunity to weigh in, too – should they choose to. *The document is an appendix to these draft minutes – please see below.*

Gary Gingras has not had an opportunity to speak to new Grey County CAO Kim Wingrove re parking lots, however he spoke at length with Bryan Plumstead (Tourism/EcoDev) re **plowing the parking lots** (at Hogg's Falls and at Eugenia Falls for eg.) Apparently, there are some jurisdiction issues, for example, the MNR owns Hogg's Falls parking. And, to top it off, now Grey Sauble Conservation is asking people to pay, on their phones – for parking at their sites, including Eugenia Falls.

Gary asked if Grey Cty has a **membership with the OTC** – nobody seemed to know. Grey Cty Tourism clerk Heather Aljoe is looking into that.

Board member replacement & size – do we want a bigger board?

David spoke against a bigger board – as it will require a bigger quorum, too. Cara thinks the board members should be required to attend meetings regularly.

Jon Gillette will be invited to stay on the board as a Director Emeritus – his wisdom and skills to be relied upon, without his attending meetings.

Jane Farrow is invited to join the board and David will speak with her.

Patricia Henninger - will be invited by Gary Gingras

Roadside Sign in Barbara's garage - David could install the sign when he returns or Gary says he has tools, Barbara offers to assist – likely do it in two weeks.

David says he will, once the knee is good and the snow is gone, trim the cedar trees in front of the sign.

WV brochure revision (Grant application to Municipality for \$750 to reprint the WV brochure)- Barbara was in touch with CAO Dan Best at the Municipality. They have not yet decided if we will receive a grant

Social Media slide - Julie has the Facebook page; Twitter is managed by Barbara
Both usually only get active when there is a walk
All in attendance resolved to post photos and other stuff on the Fb page so that it's not just Julie's job.

CHC – Healthy Kids Community Challenge – they are putting out a recreation guide and Barbara will speak with Crystal Ferguson about a mention in that guide and that we can also lead walks by request (for WV donation?)

4. New Business

Walks Upcoming: Gary offered to host a snowshoe hike in Feb or March - and we'll use social media to promote and ask Jon for a poster
Feb 21 - Flesherton Forest snowshoe hike - Barbara will recon the trail prior to that date

Grey County Tourism Survey

Gary was on the committee that hired the consultant. We need someone to answer on behalf of the Walking Village – Cara is a good choice because she doesn't operate a tourism business and has fresh eyes on Grey County. Barbara will send tourism survey link to Cara (and David.) Gary tells us that Grey County has a \$579,000 budget for tourism – and is hiring more staff

Grey Georgian Trails Initiative

Barbara has been in touch with our walking/hiking colleagues thru an email thread of walking groups and hiking organizations in Grey County – we are calling it the Grey-Georgian Trails Network –for starters. Groups such as the Bruce Trail Beaver Valley Club and the Kolapore Trails Wilderness Trails – plus businesses such as Free Spirit Tours and Canada Trail Guide. There are about 20 names on the list, including Grey County tourism and also planning departments (planning is responsible for the Grey County Forests).

After some initial emails to intro the idea and consolidate our “Open to the Group” list, we heard from Bryan Plumsted that the County wants to be involved; that inventory-ing all the trails available was perhaps a good start – and then putting some “Destination Development” money toward improving some of the trails as tourism-worthy might happen. So this is all good news. Barbara will continue to circulate the emails. Director Gary Gingras is on that email list.

Next Meeting: TBA

Adjourned: 8:30pm