

Mayor Peabody and Brockton Councillors,

Thank you for the prompt response to our concerns about the proposed Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Request Report PW2021-25. We are requesting that the five (5) year Memorandum of Understanding between the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and the Municipality of Brockton be retracted.

We would like the council to know that neither we, nor our neighbours, have been approached by any members of the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club in the past fourteen days to further discuss our concerns regarding this proposed trail. We suspect that they have not tried to contact us because we were very clear with the club in the summer that we opposed this trail. The club members were deceitful and lied to our neighbours when discussing this idea. We see now that the club discarded our feedback and went ahead with this proposal without informing us. It also appears they waited until the last minute to complete this specific portion of the trail as they knew we had serious objections. Yet, we have been told that they do not want "bad blood". Had we known about this proposal in November, we would have voiced our issues at that time which would have prevented all the last minute conflict and stress to everyone over the holidays.

We object to the snowmobile trail being located in our backyard for many reasons. Our children's safety is our biggest concern with a motorized trail being in our backyard. Our house is the closest dwelling to the rail trail and our boys (ages 7, 9 and 11) spend a considerable amount of time in our backyard with their friends. Having motorized vehicles driving back and forth at all hours of the day with children playing near the trail is extremely dangerous. A temporary fence will not prevent personal injury if a snowmobile driver becomes distracted and veers off the trail at high speeds. Our children also have an ice rink, zip line, and a tree fort that is within twenty feet of the rail trail thus making it unsafe for both our family and the snowmobilers.

We want to highlight that the noise and light pollution from the trail will unfairly affect the use of our personal property. The tranquility of our backyard will be greatly reduced with motorized vehicles driving along our back yard at all hours of the day and night. We would be forced to look at relocating as we could no longer enjoy our property as intended. Our property value would be affected as very few people would want to have a motorized trail situated behind their dwelling. It is unfair that the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club is allowed to affect Brockton's taxpayers property values.

Our personal property would be at risk as we have a shop that is located beside the trail. It is obvious that this could result in theft and trespassing charges. Theft and damage to personal property is a common reason why the snowmobile clubs need to find new trails. It was in fact the same reason for the closure of the trails surrounding Pearl Lake a few years ago which is within the same concession of our properties.

We have serious concerns about the specifics of the proposal that was presented to the council. It does not adequately demonstrate the close proximity nor the impact to personal property and residential dwellings. It does not mention our concerns that were previously voiced in the summer. It does not mention that this agreement will violate the zoning M3 bylaw in terms of the visual buffering that is to be maintained around a quarry. Furthermore, we would like the council members to be aware that we own a section of the land that was included in the 5 year contract with the snowmobile club. This clearly demonstrates that due diligence was not done. Had this snowmobile trail pushed forward the week of December 20th as planned, we would have been forced to take legal action against those involved and the damages to our private property.

In conclusion, we feel that the proposal was misleading and inaccurate. We feel that this agreement prioritizes the interests of the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club over the concerns brought forward by the Brockton taxpayers. We again are asking that the five (5) year Memorandum of Understanding between the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and the Municipality of Brockton be dissolved.

Thank you for taking our concerns seriously. We would like to thank Councillor Leifso and Councillor Lang for taking our phone calls, listening to our concerns and putting a stop to any work being done to allow for further discussion. We look forward to discussing this issue with you at the upcoming meeting on January 11, 2022.

Respectfully,

Matt & Dr. Cheryl White