

## Report to Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Concerned Resident Feedback Regarding the Proposed Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Trail		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations		
<b>Department:</b>	Operations		
<b>Date:</b>	January 11, 2022		
<b>Report Number:</b>	PW2022-01	<b>File Number:</b>	C11PW, L04HA
<b>Attachments:</b>	Snowmobile Trail Routes Letter from Concerned Citizens		

### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2022-01 - Concerned Resident Feedback Regarding the Proposed Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Trail, prepared by Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations, for information purposes.

### Report:

#### Background:

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council was provided with Report Number PW2021-25, Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club Request. The report recommended that a Bylaw come forward to enter into a five (5) year Memorandum of Understanding and Land Use Permission Agreement between the Municipality of Brockton and the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club to allow the club to reroute a section of the proposed trail on to Municipal Property. That bylaw was passed, by a resolution of Council, and the agreements were signed and executed as directed.

The purpose of the Agreement between the Municipality of Brockton, the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club, and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) was to find a new trail that got snowmobilers off of Concession 8 (Brant) and Side Road 30. According to the Snowmobile Club, "road running" is not a safe activity, both for snowmobilers and vehicle drivers, including snow plows. According to the Club, health and safety was their primary focus. The proposed trail and reroute on to Municipal Property were a viable option since the trail would be entirely on Municipal Property.

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Members of Council began receiving, via email, concerns from residents related to this project work. Members of Council forwarded the concerns to Municipal Staff. Staff called the OFSC District 9 Office and had the work halted. Although the project schedule submitted to staff said the work was scheduled to be done, by the Club and their Contractor, the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>, that did not happen due

to a scheduling conflict with the Contractor. The Contractor did mobilize on the site on December 20<sup>th</sup> but very little work was completed prior to the call to halt the work. Staff then asked the concerned residents to offer any further feedback to staff and Council by January 3<sup>rd</sup> so that staff could assess the situation, speak with the Snowmobile Club, and write a balanced report to Council.

Staff have included, please see attached, all the correspondence from the Concerned Residents on this matter. Staff have communicated the concerns to the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club Project Lead and the Manager of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) District 9.

In Summary, the concerns of the local residents that have property that abuts the trail and the reroute on to Municipal Property are:

- 1.) Loss of Privacy and loss of enjoyment of property
- 2.) Fear of Trespassing and Security of Property
- 3.) Speed
- 4.) Noise and Light Pollution
- 5.) Safety and Security of resident Children
- 6.) Safety and Security of resident Livestock, specifically horses
- 7.) Potential Devaluation of Property

The Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club are proposing some mitigating options which include:

- 1.) "Slow" Signs in both directions to help with speed, noise, and light pollution.
- 2.) "Stay on Trail" Signs in both directions to help with trespassing and security concerns.
- 3.) Orange Snow Fence to delineate the trail and to reduce trespassing and security concerns.
- 4.) With every permit purchased, riders are forced to watch an informational video that addresses the importance and responsibility to stay on the marked trail.

The Club has also conveyed, as have a couple of concerned residents in their communications with Council, that the trail is already well used by recreational ATVs and for other outdoor seasonal activities such as walking, hiking, snow shoeing, dirt biking, etc.

### **Analysis:**

The full correspondence/ feedback from the local concerned residents is attached, redacted for privacy.

At the time of this report, Municipal Staff were informed Members of the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club were trying to set up a meeting, between the local concerned residents and the Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Club, on Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Municipal Staff will attend also.

If Council wishes to reconsider the bylaw and resolution from November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council will need to bring forth a Notice of Motion for reconsideration. A follow up staff report could then come to the January 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council, if desired.

Staff have included a map entitled "Snowmobile Trail Routes". The white block is approximately where the concerned residents live. The blue line is the proposed trail along the rail trail that dips onto Municipal Property next to the white block where the residents live. The pink box is the Municipal Quarry. The green line

is the current snowmobile route, along Concession 8 and Side Road 30 (Brant). The red line is the connecting snowmobile trail that already exists.

**Strategic Action Plan Checklist:**

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance N/A

**Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?  
N/A

There are no known financial impacts associate with this report.

**Reviewed By:**



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**



Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations

**Reviewed By:**



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer