

Dear Mayor Peabody and Counselors,

We are writing this letter as we just recently learned about the proposed Hanover Neustadt Snowmobile Request Report PW2021-25 and we are deeply concerned.

We are one of four property owners that would be directly affected by this proposed re-routed snowmobile trail. We have spoken with the affected neighbours (copied on this email) and we are all strongly opposed to this plan.

Earlier this summer, we were approached by a member of the snowmobile club. We were clear (as well as our neighbours) that we all strongly opposed this re-route. We only learned tonight, December 19, 2021 that the snowmobile club approached council with a proposal on November 9, 2021. After reviewing the proposal, it is clear that none of our concerns were communicated nor was the council fully informed of the impacts of this proposal on the affected properties. We also learned tonight that an excavator is being planned to come this week to prepare the trail without any discussion or consultation with the residential land owners that are directly impacted by this.

We contacted councilor Leifso to voice our concerns and he suggested sending an email so that this can be addressed with the council immediately.

As adjacent property owners and Brockton tax payers, we are strongly opposed to this for many reasons. The most important reason is the safety of our children and their friends as the snowmobile trail would be within 15 feet of our children's sports pad / ice rink and play center. We are also quite concerned about noise and light pollution, and theft and damage to our personal property as this is a known issue on this stretch of trail.

We are very concerned with the lack of consultation with the land owners that are impacted by this proposed re-route. We are requesting a formal review with the council, the affected landowners and the snowmobile club. **We are asking that council stop the proposed excavation that is planned for the week of December 20,2021 so that a proper meeting can occur so that council can be fully informed about our concerns.**

We would like to invite the counselors to our property to understand why this is not a safe or appropriate location and to better understand the risk of potential liability with the proposed re-route. We look forward to your immediate response on this matter.

Brockton Mayor Peabody and Counselors;

I am a home owner that would be directly affected by the agreement made with the Municipality of Brockton and the Hanover/Neustadt Snow mobile club to use the abandon CNR Rail bed as a route for snow mobile traffic. I want to reiterate the concerns outlined by XXXXX and XXXXXX that are listed below.

I am deeply upset about the lack of communication that has taken place regarding this agreement and I would like to formally request the supporting documentation that would outline the due diligence that was carried out by the municipality prior to entering into this agreement. I am not, nor have I ever been, in agreement with the land being used in this fashion and had expressed that very sentiment to the snow mobile club member when asked in the summer of 2021.

As a home owner and former snow mobile rider, I have strong concerns about noise and light pollution as well as the potential for infringement on our personal property and any subsequent damage, as this has been an ongoing issue for many years with other land owners. Also, I have concerns about what this would mean to our property value as this may impact how our property is viewed by potential buyers. My house sits within 200 ft of the proposed trail, this would be incredibly disruptive and as there is no time limit for use of the trail, this has the potential to be at all hours of day and night. Further to that, the proximity to trail also gives concern about the potential for the opportunity for theft of personal property.

I also have very strong concerns about the speed at which the machines would be travelling on the trail, this is a relatively straight piece of land with no obstacles, and I feel that creates the perfect environment for riders to exceed the maximum trail speed, as we all know can happen. Even the marked trail speed of 50km/hr is too fast given the highly residential setting that we are in.

I strongly agree with XXXX & XXXXX, that the plan should be ***paused immediately*** in order for all impacted parties to have an opportunity to fully review the plan and look at alternatives that would present a less intrusive option and still provide the objective for the snow mobile club. Given the amount of land that we have in this area, I would ask you to consider whether or not this is the only possible route that can be utilized for this activity.

I would encourage council to come out and view the affected areas in order to fully understand why we have concerns about this agreement and the proposed use of the land.

Respectfully

Brockton Mayor Peabody and Counselors

I am also a homeowner that will be directly affected by the agreement made by the Town of Brockton and the Hanover/Neudstadt snowmobile club. I 100% agree with the concerns of my neighbours about the safety issues and lack of concerns for the home owners concerned in this matter.

I have horses and my corrals back onto the proposed trail. This trail poses a huge safety concern for me regarding my horses.

I also strongly agree with XXXXX & XXXXX and XXXXX that the plan should be Paused Immediately so our concerns can be heard by council

Brockton Mayor Peabody and Brockton Counselors.

I also am a property owner that will be effected by the snowmobile trail being relocated near my back yard .

My biggest concern is for the safety of my neighbors children, livestock and pets being to close to this proposed trail

I feel that counsel does not or did receive all the facts on this matter before passing this motion. Therefore I feel it should be brought back to the table before it goes any further.

Respectfully

Dear Mayor Peabody and Brockton Council Members;

I would like to start by expresses my appreciation for the expedited response to our concerns regarding the proposed land use agreement with the Municipality of Brockton and the Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile club. Reading through proposal PW2021-25 that was presented as part of the November 9, 2021 council meeting I have serious concerns about the omission of relevant information that may have elicited a different outcome from council, please see below;

My property line is only 25 feet from the edge of the proposed snow mobile trail, this gives rise to concerns about the possibility of users entering my property or worse, possibly causing injury to me our my family should we be in our own back yard and a snow mobile should come off the trail and into my property. The proposal that was presented did not mention the residential setting that forms the eastern boundary for this trail, it only makes reference to the Landfill site and the gravel pit. Please see expert from proposal PW2021-25 below.

The Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile Club contacted Brockton Municipal Staff about a possible re-route in Brockton, specifically along the old railroad line that abuts the Brant Landfill and Gravel Pit, both of which are owned by the Municipality (former Township of Brant). In the last couple of years, there have been a number of landowners that have either opted out of Memorandum of Understandings, for various reasons, or the properties have changed hands and the Snowmobile Clubs have been unable to connect with the new owners or have not been able to convince them to participate. In this particular case, a couple of the landowners' own portions of the old railroad line and are not interested in signing a Memorandum of Understand with the

Due to the fact that this particular section of land that is covered under PW2021-25 is straight going, with no obstacles, gives me cause for more concern about the speed at which traffic will be moving along this trail. The potential for excessive speed is significant, again presenting the possibility for significant liability.

The proposal makes reference to the fact that the agreement will be terminated if snow mobiles leave the designated trail and move onto municipal property, what recourse is there for us as home owners should a snow mobile leave the trail and enter our property? This is another point that demonstrates how we, as home owners, are not even taken into consideration as there is no mention of any consequences for infringement on our personal property. See excerpt from proposal below;

The Club has been told, if Council agrees to this Memorandum of Understanding, that if snowmobile riders veer off of the trail and enter municipal property, outside the boundaries that have been agreed upon, that this agreement could be terminated. The members of the Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile Club were receptive of that and appeared to be very sincere and appreciative of Staff and Council's consideration to the re-route and use of municipal property.

In advance of entering into the MOU with the Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile club the Municipality of Brockton did not contact us to communicate the proposed use of the land or to investigate how that would impact us as adjacent land owners. Had that taken place we would have once again expressed our concerns and not have to wait until the trail was almost established. As well, it is my belief that council was lied to about how we felt about the proposal as we had made our opinion known to the

Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile club member when asked in the summer of 2021. At which time the club member told us that our neighbours were in favour of the land use when in fact they were just as opposed as we were. And that information is not included in the proposal that was given to Council.

Outside of the concern about safety I also have serious concerns about the noise and light pollution that will be happening at all hours the day and night. Due to the fact that our house sits within 200 feet of our rear property line, I don't see how those issues will be able to be adequately addressed.

Subsequently, in the time since we contacted council requesting a halt on the proposed trail, we have not been contacted by the Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile Club regarding their options for addressing our concerns. In fact I have a difficult time accepting the fact that they want to work with us given the fact that they failed to take our opposition into consideration and chose to still move forward with their plan regardless.

In the interest of transparency I would like confirmation from council that any parties that were part of the formulating of proposal PW2021-25 or part of the review process are not part of, or members of, the Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile club. It is my belief that should that be the case I don't believe that those parties would have remained impartial to the situation.

In regards to the comment that there has been "human activity" on municipal owned land, I can confirm that on a regular basis we hear or even see ATVs that use the old rail bed coming from both the north and south. We have even had the OPP on ATVs on the old rail bed investigating the report of a sitting of stolen items being seen in the area. We have heard dirt bikes/ATVs in the gravel pit area behind us, however, we don't make a habit of investigating. The most recent activity was on Christmas Eve when we could hear activity behind us and to the south and there were ATV tracks going all the way down the rail bed to the south. Given the fact that the property to the south west of us is a recreational property it is possible that they were using it for the day, or perhaps it was someone else entirely.

At this time I would ask Council to consider the impact that this proposal will have on us as home owners, regardless of the fact that I do not own the rail bed behind my property, and rescind the agreement with the Hanover/Neustadt Snowmobile club.

Happy New Year and hello all . Mayor Peabody and Brockton Counselors

I would like to say that I am not opposed to snowmobiling within the municipality as I am a ofsc member, but I would like to point out that there are multiple miles of ofsc trails on roadways across the county in large part due to misuse of trails on private property.

Our main concerns are sucriety of our property along with noise 24hrs per day and light pollution.

As per ownership of the old CN property, I do own the portion it the back of property . For clarification you could contact XXXXXXXXXX

As for people using the old CN rail tracks for atv's and walking with there dogs and pick-up trucks , this happens on a regular basis. And on occasion OPP on atvs .On Thursday afternoon Dec 30th talking with my neighbor there were 5 atv's touring on municipal property, after talking with them I learned they were from Sarina.

I have questions regarding the the number of near misses in front of the landfill on concession con 8 ,when the traffic exist the landfill on concession con 8 they have to turn right or left as there is no road that goes straight through, how fast can they be going ? Also the speed on the ofsc trail is 50km .

Maybe a stop sign should be at the exit of the landfill.

I feel it would be in the best interest for all involved if we were 100% transparent with all parties involved ( request from the snowmobile club ) as they are being forwarded info .

It appears that Mayor Peabody and Brockton Counselors received a lack of information and with all that there is to deal with it was passed through counsel in trust that the leg work had been completed.

I trust an alternative route can found .

Thanks for your time towards this matter and look forward to being able to attend the meeting. On Jan 11th

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 taxpayer's 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 been 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,



Good Morning Mayor Peabody and Brockton councillors.

My husband and I appreciate that you have given us time to voice our concerns regarding the proposed snowmobile trail behind our property line.

As stated by all my neighbours, no one agreed to the proposal and would have put a stop to this sooner if we were informed in November when the agreement was approved.

As I have explained in my letter previously, my husband and I have horses on our property and having snowmobiles travelling 20-25ft from our property line would be dangerous. If the loud noise and high speeds from the snowmobiles were to spook the horses and they bolted this would cause a lot of issues. They can cause harm to themselves by potentially braking a leg, can break through our fences and run out onto the highway. Who would be liable for damages to others and also our horses

There are other issues that we are concerned about also, privacy being one of them as well as noise at all times of the day and night.

We take pride in our property and have concerns about snowmobilers disrespecting property.

Yours respectfully

