

Re: Proposed Closure and Sale of Road allowance adjacent to 64 Ridout St

Mayor Letham and Members of Council,

I will not be available to make a deputation in person to the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 7 regarding the above-mentioned road allowance sale, so I am submitting this letter which I trust will be equivalent to my being there in person.

I ask Council to not allow the sale of this particular property or, at least, defer it until after the Active Transportation Master Plan Task Force has submitted its report. As you know, the Task Force will be considering in detail a plan for trails in the CKL including urban centres such as Lindsay.

The Provincial Policy Statement of 2020 recommends “providing opportunities for public access to shorelines” (Part V, 1.5). There may be a vision promoted by the Task Force that there be active transportation trails on both sides of the Scugog River in the urban Lindsay.

Although it would not be appropriate to expropriate properties along the south shore of the Scugog River, a trail might be proposed from the Lindsay Street bridge along the south and then the west shore of the Scugog River to the Rainbow bridge and then on to the rail bridge. Of course, the trail, once it passes the children’s park, would need to bypass the houses that are currently present on the south side of the river but the City property adjacent to 64 Ridout St could become a node for trails in that section of Lindsay or it could be considered for a parkette or a resting spot along a trail on that south side of the Scugog.

Furthermore, a broader vision might be, over the long term (perhaps the next 3-4 decades), that a true riverside trail be contemplated as houses are sold off. If that were to be the case (of course it’s too early to tell right now), then it would be a shame to have given up this property when it might otherwise have become part of a continuum of properties.

I think the benefit for the City of revenue for the sale of this property is outweighed by the loss of a piece of a potential trail system on that side of the river.

Please consider this request when debating the issues of this proposed road closure and sale.

Peter Petrosoniak