

**From:** Jamie Morris <

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:14 PM

**To:** Agenda Items <AgendaItems@kawarthalakes.ca>

**Subject:** Letter to be included in agenda package for April 18th council meeting

Trails Master Plan Request

Mayor Elmslie and Councillors:

At today's council meeting you will be receiving the Trails Master Plan. I am writing to request that when the plan takes effect you restrict the roughly 3 km stretch of the VRTC from Thunder Bridge Road to KenRei Road to non-motorized uses.

My interests in this are as a Lindsay resident who enjoys walking and bicycling the trail, who makes extensive use of Ken Reid Conservation Area, and who has concerns for the environment.

In this letter I'd like to suggest a number of reasons for council to take this progressive step:

- The non-motorized Lindsay Legacy Trail from William St. N. to Thunder Bridge Road is well-used by walkers and bicyclists; making the VRTC from Thunder Bridge Rd. to KenRei non-motorized as well would encourage more people to walk, cycle, and experience nature.
- Making the Trail non-motorized from Lindsay to KenRei road creates a safe, green corridor, connecting the town to Ken Reid Conservation Area (and all of its trails, and its recreation opportunities that range from storywalks for kids to bird-watching and disc golf).
- As development pushes northward in Lindsay (with the Tribute development in particular) there is a growing population in need of healthy recreational activity and opportunities to experience nature.
- The first-listed of the City's "Strategic Priority Areas" is "Healthy Environment." There is no getting around the fact that ATVs pollute and increase our carbon footprint. Council should do whatever it can to promote non-motorized trail use.
- Because of their mass and the speeds at which they can travel ATVs are, potentially, a danger to other trail users.
- KATVA, the local ATV association, pushed hard for a road route through Lindsay. The route, approved by council, takes ATVs up Angeline St. as far as Thunder Bridge Road. Allowing them to continue north, on the road, to KenRei Road, then turn right to connect to the VRTC seems like a small ask.
- If this 3 km stretch is made non-motorized, it leaves ATVs with 82 km of the 85 km VRTC, much of it well away from population centres and so not as in-demand for walkers and cyclists.

The case for the non-motorized trail from Lindsay to Ken Reid seems very clear.

I hope council will consider taking this step now, rather than referring it to staff to prepare a report.

We have lots of reports and plans. What we need are actions that show the sincerity of the commitment to a healthy environment and quality of life.

Jamie Morris

(Lindsay, Ontario)