

Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria

From: Crystal Fischer <hcminfocfischer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 2:58 PM
To: hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com
Subject: FW: The Algonquin Rail Trail!

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: The Algonquin Rail Trail!

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: April 16, 2018 3:14 PM

[REDACTED]

Subject: The Algonquin Rail Trail!

Hello:

My name is [REDACTED] and my family has a building lot on Ashport Road in Mackey. Currently we live in [REDACTED] Ontario but welcome the opportunity to comment on the Algonquin Rail Trail as that project would impact in some fashion our property.

First, I want to thank the townships for granting us an opportunity to provide our input. This is an important aspect of our democratic construct in Ontario.

We are in support of the proper development of the rail trail and fully appreciate that depending upon one's proximity to the old rail line the issues may be more significant the closer one's house is to the trail.

The development of the rail trail needs to ensure the relative privacy and enjoyment of property that adjoining land owners currently enjoy. That ought to be an abiding principle for all considerations. In

Southern Ontario we have many issues between public thorough fares and private property use (i.e, trespassing, damage, garbage, etc.) and there is no reason for HCM to revisit those issues if you can figure out how to prevent them on the front end of this project.

We see the rail trail as an important link between the past, the age of the railway, and the future, the age of different forms of transportation - many of which will be carbon neutral. The trail should facilitate as reasonably as possible all forms of transport, not just motorized. We appreciate that there are valid recreational uses for the trail associated with ATVs and snowmobiles but we remind you they are not the only form of transport. We would like to see opportunities for other users including mountain bikers, hikers, etc.

There will be concerns about the usage of the trail and there needs to be clear boundaries for acceptable and unacceptable uses including consideration of trail limitations during critical times of the year which may be impactful to all forms of wildlife. We urge you to discuss matters with the local Ministry of Natural Resources office so that wildlife is not negatively impacted.

We are also concerned about fire risks. Hot shoes on rail cars burnt many of forest let's not repeat that error with careless smoking. Perhaps we can harken back to 'old rules' and request that all cigarettes consumed need to be hand rolled with papers that will not burn indefinitely.

Public/private partnerships could foster business opportunities along the route in HCM and if council goes down that path we highly recommend competitive tendering for whatever may be envisioned. The townships should not be out of pocket to anyone for this development, to the extent possible, and by all means it should be indemnified against any and all lawsuits that may materialize as a result of the creation and use of this trail.

We do feel that when the trail ventures well into the wilderness we may need a few rest stops along the way developed with outhouses, etc. so that the environment may be protected. Also special consideration needs to be made in regards to any water crossings.

Fire suppression is a major concern and so too are emergency services. It is hard enough to envision timely ambulance care on Highway 17 - even more difficult to figure out how one might triage a patient that is on a rail line some distance off the beaten path(s). There needs to be a thorough discussion with emergency responders about how best to manage trail emergencies.

In sum we feel this is a positive use of the old rail line but that it needs to be done judiciously and that any negative impacts on the residents of HCM are properly mitigated and if need be compensated. The trail will only thrive if it is taken as a part of the HCM fabric so when you craft this quilt make it fit into the community on your collective terms.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to comment on the rail trail. For obvious reasons a face to face conversation was not practicable, however, if we can be of any additional assistance etc. please do not hesitate to reach out to us. With modern media one is only an email away from a good conversation.

All the best - we are confident that HCM will make this work in a way that is appropriate for the way of life you all enjoy.

Regards