

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Dundas Laneway Issue

From: Richard Trebilcock

Sent: June-26-17 1:16 PM

To: Office of the Mayor; clerk@hamilton.ca; Leduc, Lauri; Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi

Cc: Public Laneway

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This note is concerning Agenda Item 6.2, Public Works committee item #7: "The Proposed Permanent closure and sale of a Public Unassumed Alley between Sydenham road, Cross Street, Alma Street and Victoria Street, Dundas."

The Ward 13 Councillor, Arlene Vanderbeek, and the Public Works Committee seem determined to close the Laneway and sell it to a local developer for 2\$ to enhance his property at 63 Sydenham Road, Dundas. This despite strong opposition from the community.

The argument put forward by Councillor Vanderbeek and the PW Committee emphasizes safety issues based upon a study by a principal, two teachers and a nurse. Although perhaps excellent educators and health care professionals, we doubt they have any expertise in the area of traffic and road safety. The so-called study seems to be a "red herring", cooked up by those who are anxious to close and sell the Laneway. The Public Laneway is not now, nor has it ever been a dangerous place to be and we question the rigor, accuracy and professionalism of this study. There have never been, in 160 years, any incidents at the Public Laneway to justify its closing. On the other hand, there have been incidents/accidents on Sydenham Road. You don't have to be an "expert" to know that Sydenham Road is one of the busiest arterial roads in the Dundas area. Our point is that we are restricting access to the safe route in the Laneway and forcing people to use the more dangerous alternative on Sydenham Road. If Public Works and the ward 13 Councillor believe safety is the biggest issue in the closure and sale of the Laneway, then the least the city can do is authorize a professional traffic study. The decision to close and sell a public thoroughfare should await the results of a professional study on the issue. As an aside, there were never any reported safety issues with the Laneway until someone decided they wanted to purchase a piece of the property.

We have three recommendations:

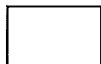
1) the decision on the closure and sale of the Laneway await a study by qualified experts in the area of traffic and road safety

2) item (6) (ix) requiring the owner to obtain "retroactive approval of a Heritage Permit for the paving of the alleyway to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Chief Planner." It seems to us that no decision should be made on closure until all aspects of the laneways proximity to an important heritage district are thoroughly analyzed.

3) In view of strong community opposition to the proposal to close laneways, a referendum should be held in ward 13 before taking any action to close and sell laneways (especially in heritage districts). There are perhaps thousands of voters in this ward who disagree with the direction the Councillor and Public Works committee are taking with respect to Public Laneways in Dundas, Ontario.

Marg and Rick Trebilcock

June 26, 2017



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