

2017-06-26

Re Council Meeting June 28, 2017

Proposed Permanent Closure and Sale of a Public Unassumed

Alley between Sydenham Road, Cross Street, Alma Street and Victoria Street, Dundas

Agenda Item 6.2

(as Item 7 of the Public Works Committee Report 17-008).

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

1. I urge you to vote against the proposed closure and sale of this alley.

I spoke at the meeting of the Public Works Committee on Monday June 19. I heard Councillor VanderBeek base her argument for closure and sale of the alley almost solely on the fact that 4-6 year olds walk by themselves to school through the laneway. Since the whole laneway issue signs were erected by the City and notices delivered from the school to parents to ask the children not to pass through the laneway while heading to or from school. At this point, it is up to parents to enforce this and teach their children to travel the way they wish them to and why. I live near Dundas Central Public School and rarely ever do I see children that age (4-6) or even older walking by themselves period. They are accompanied by an adult and or driven in a vehicle.

2. Sydenham Street is a very dangerous street for pedestrians, vehicles and bicyclists.

Just walking on the sidewalk, next to speeding traffic is uncomfortable enough and I would rather not have my children walking that way at all.

Everyone can site from memory the number of times there have been cars on front lawns on Sydenham, a truck that lost its brakes and didn't stop until it hit the old curling building in town and more recently a child involved in an accident!

3. The alleyway is calm, quiet and not just for school children to walk or not walk. I have walked this route over the years, as so many others young and old. It is part of the Heritage District; part of the old town feel of Dundas that people come to see from the big cities. Dundas is a tourist destination- a vibrant community from another time, cared for by a loving community. Many of the folk who care for the public life of the alleyway are the same volunteers who have brought back the beautiful Rock Gardens in the historic Driving Park at the head of the Heritage District. If you have not seen this, be sure to take it in next time you are in town. It is impressive and these volunteers have restored more of the heritage flavour for the community!

4. This is a real community and one which has been taken aback by the deliberate, arrogant takeover of the public alleyway in question by an individual who obviously has no care for the Heritage District in which he lives nor the concerns of the community.

5. On top of all this, there is a total disregard by our local government to take seriously the over 650 documented people who wish to keep the laneway public. There are many varied and good reasons presented by all the 30 some people who spoke in support of the public alley and all those who continue to list the serious inconsistencies in this case by email to all of you.

Stop Look and Listen!

Please vote NO on the proposed alley closure!

Keep this alley a public, community/ City of Hamilton ASSET!

Sincerely,

Barbara Patterson, [REDACTED]