

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: September 18, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

SECONDED BY

Investigation of possible future public use for 175 Lawrence Rd (Former Hamilton Pressed Brick Company Site) (Ward 3)

WHEREAS, the property at 175 Lawrence Road, which was the site of the Hamilton Pressed Brick Company was sold, and the current owners have approached the city about possible use of the property for public purposes including recreation, natural heritage preservation, and/or cultural;

WHEREAS, the site has limited private development potential due to a lack of fully open vehicle and pedestrian access across the active rail line from Lawrence Rd, natural features on the site and open space planning designation;

WHEREAS, the current owners commissioned a cultural heritage assessment of the site which recognized significant cultural heritage resources and followed its recommendations to retain, stabilize and maintain heritage buildings which are representative of the brick making process and Hamilton's industrial heritage for future possible heritage designation, adaptive reuse and interpretation;

WHEREAS, the site is at the base of the Niagara Escarpment adjacent to the Rail Trail and future improvements may allow for a possible pedestrian connection from Gage Park to the Rail Trail and escarpment lands;

WHEREAS, the current owners have approached staff and the Ward 3 Councillor's Office with a preliminary proposal exploring future public uses on the site inspired in part by the Don Valley Brickworks project;

WHEREAS, the current owners have expressed an interest in exploring a long term plan to transfer the property or parts of the property to the City through lease agreements, partial purchase or donation for enhanced public use.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Public Works, Planning, and Economic Development staff be directed to investigate what opportunities and constraints exist to inform future public access at 175 Lawrence Rd, including the following:

- (i) consultation with permitting authorities including CPKC Rail and the Niagara Escarpment Commission,
- (ii) review of the site for access, cultural heritage, natural heritage and any other related issues, and,
- (b) That staff report back to the General Issues Committee in Q3 2025 on the feasibility of accommodating public uses at 175 Lawrence, such as, but not limited to, trails, heritage interpretation, and events.