



Subject: *Train Whistle Inquiry - Enfield*
To: CAO for Planning Advisory Committee, September 21, 2021
Date Prepared: September 13, 2021
Related Motions: None
Prepared by: Debbie Uloth, Project Planner
Approved by: John Woodford, Director of Planning and Development

Summary

East Hants Council has received a letter from a resident of Enfield requesting that the Municipality start the process to eliminate the train whistle at the railway crossing in Enfield. Outlined in this report is the process that the Municipality has to undertake in order to have, if possible, the train whistle eliminated.

Financial Impact Statement

There will be unknown financial impacts if Council decides to move forward with the request to proceed with the elimination of the train whistle in Enfield.

Recommendation

That Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council provide direction to staff on how to proceed with the request from Mr. Kainola.

Recommended Motion

There is no recommended motion associated with the adoption of this report.

Background

East Hants Council has received a letter from Edward Kainola, Enfield requesting that the Municipality take action to eliminate the train whistle at the railway crossing in Enfield. Below are Google Earth images showing the location and streetview of the railway crossing. As Mr. Kainola mentions in his letter, it is a Municipal decision as to whether to request that a train whistle be eliminated or not. As noted on the Transport Canada website, “Train whistling is an important way to keep drivers, cyclists and pedestrians safe. The *Canadian Rail Operating Rules* require all trains to whistle whenever they approach a public grade crossing.”



If Council would like to move forward with Mr. Kainola’s request to eliminate the train whistle at the Enfield crossing, then the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*, as found on the Transport Canada website, will have to be followed. Below is a paired down version of the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*.

1. A request has to come forward from a citizen or a citizens group to Council requesting to stop train whistling at a certain area(s) along a rail corridor. - *Request has been received from Edward Kainola, resident of Enfield.*
2. Municipality consults with railway company to determine feasibility of request.
3. The municipality notifies all relevant associations or organizations and issues a public notice of its intention to pass a resolution declaring that it agrees that whistles should not be used at a specific area (crossing or multiple crossings) along a railway corridor.
4. The municipality and the railway company assess whether the area meets the requirements to halt train whistling of the Grade Crossings Regulations. The municipality may have to engage a professional engineer to make this determination.
5. Determine if the municipality and railway agree with the findings. If they do agree follow next step, if not resolve conflict.
6. The municipality passes a resolution declaring that it agrees that whistles should not be used in that area, thereby prohibiting train whistling.
7. Upon receipt of the resolution, the railway company notifies Transport Canada and informs the municipality within 30 days that it has arranged to have whistling ceased at the crossing(s).
8. The municipality and railway company share the responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the conditions that support the cessation of train whistling at the crossing(s). A Transport Canada Railway

Safety Inspector may order the reinstatement of whistling at the crossing(s) should the responsible authorities fail to maintain the area in a manner that meets the prescribed requirements.

Options

Planning Advisory Committee have two options in response to the request from Mr. Kainola:

- a. Recommend to Council to proceed with the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*. Costs related to the procedure is the responsibility of the Municipality.
 - b. Recommend to Council not to proceed with the elimination of the train whistle at the Enfield crossing and to provide Mr. Kainola with a letter from Council indicating their decision.
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Conclusion

Information has been provided to Planning Advisory Committee on the procedure that is to be followed for the elimination of train whistles at public grade crossings. If Council wishes to initiate the procedure then a motion should be passed directing staff to proceed with the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*.

Draft motions:

Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

- *proceed with the Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings. Costs related to the procedure is the responsibility of the Municipality.*

Or

Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

- *not to proceed with the elimination of the train whistle at the Enfield crossing and to provide Mr. Kainola with a letter from Council indicating their decision.*
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Recommendation

That Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council provide direction to staff on how to proceed with the request from Mr. Kainola.