



Subject: *Review of the meeting for Adjacent Property Owners to the DAR Line Report*
To: Corporate and Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: September 16, 2021
Related Motions: NA
Prepared by: Kate Friars, Deputy CAO
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, CAO

Summary

Arising from direction of Council in October 2019, staff were asked to organized a meeting for property owners who are located adjacent to the DAR to hear concerns and ideas associated with the potential of establishing a multi modal trail system on the railbed. The meeting was held at the first opportunity once COVID protocols would permit an in person meeting. The meeting was held at the Kennetcook Fire Hall, September 14th 2021. This report provides Council with the information that was shared at the meeting.

Invitations were mailed August 11, 2021 to approximately 300 property owners. These were identified through the GIS system. Staff were aware of some duplicate mailings due to multiple property holdings by the same individual. There were 36 individuals who attended the meeting. Several members of Council were also in attendance. A brief overview of the due diligence conducted to date was shared with the group and the floor was open for general comment and questions.

In general there were several main themes expressed by those in attendance:

- Questioning the process and validity of the rail bed acquisition and deeds
- Concern that taxes have been paid to the municipality on rail bed portion of property
- Comments on the current condition of the rail line, such as missing crossings, overgrowth, garbage, etc
- Concern about ATV use and being disrespectful to adjacent private property such as fields being torn up, lack of privacy, vandalism and theft
- Questions about how such a trail system would operate... ownership, development, maintenance, etc
- Possibility of environmental concerns
- Benefits of having a trail system for personal recreation such as walking, skiing, cycling etc as well as economic growth as a regional asset

Where possible questions were addressed, however there are a number of concerns that require more information. Staff indicated time would be required to research and where possible get back to the community with the information.

Those in attendance were asked to indicate by a show of hands their preference for the project. In general, the group was approximately 50% for and 50% against.

Staff indicated that the information from the meeting would be shared with Council and further discussions would follow.

Financial Impact Statement

None at this time.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee receive this report for information.

Recommended Motion

None at this time.