

Alana Richards

Subject: 2nd exit needed for Elmwood Subdivision

From: "MacDonald .Family"

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To: Norval Mitchell <nmitchell@easthants.ca>

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July 26, 2023

Hello Mr Mitchell and members of MEH council,

I am to request expedited construction of a secondary access and exit lane for Elmwood Subdivision.

Recent flooding events, not to mention Hurricane Fiona and fires that ravaged this province in May, underline more than ever the need for what should be a basic requirement within developments and residential neighborhoods – the ability to exit and enter in two ways in case of emergency.

This is timely as I would imagine recent flooding events will be a topic for council to tackle, and that all councillors have been contacted by concerned citizens. I am also sure that the council is looking at ways to protect the citizens of MEH in the future.

It does need to be said however, that citizen requests and concern for a second exit has literally existed for decades. Yet nothing has been done.

As a long-time resident of East Hants, I've heard many times from the Municipal Planning department that the second exit is being 'looked at', and more recently that long term planning and development incorporates secondary exits for 30+ year old Elmwood Subdivision.

The plan for exit/entrances being constructed as part of 600 houses yet to be built is not quick enough, and I have grave concerns over any planned Pinehill Drive exit ability, given the flooding that area saw last weekend.

It is not acceptable to continue to trust in luck and our awesome first responders when it comes to potential emergency needs within the Elmwood subdivision, especially given recent events of Fiona, fire and floods.

I believe we are way beyond lingering conversation about someday having a second exit. We have to get to construction.

Flood waters on Saturday, July 22 rose to the extent our one exit/entrance on Elmwood Drive was flooded with water. Access from Enfield direction was already restricted due to the flooding near the two business plazas on Highway 2.

No one should believe weather events like the past weekend's are 'one off' or not likely to happen again. Weather disturbances causing Nova Scotia destruction -- and unfortunately death in the case of the flooding -- are the new norm. MEH has to bring up standards to ensure the safety of residents.

I remind councilors that prime hurricane season arrives in NS in September -- in just a little over a month's time. We all remember Fiona and the horrendous impact it had and still has on this province a year later.

Please give your attention to creating a second exit/entrance to Elmwood subdivision NOW.

Please explore potential federal infrastructure funding, or funding that MEH may receive provincially or federally as we seek to rebuild.

This is an important investment in our community and the safety of citizens.

Sincerely,

Cathy MacDonald



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