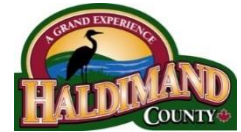

HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum LSS-M10-2019 Additional Information Related to Report LSS-16-2019 and Confidential Memorandum LSS-M08-2019



For Consideration by Council on May 13, 2019

To: Mayor Hewitt and Members of Council

From: Sandra Marsh, Property Coordinator

Included in the open session agenda of the Council in Committee meeting of May 7, 2019, was Report LSS-16-2019 Unsolicited Offer from Egger, Former Rail Lands in Dunnville concerning a section of County-owned vacant land that was formerly a rail line. Confidential Memorandum LSS-M08-2019 provided additional information related to the report and options for disposal of the property.

At the Council in Committee meeting of May 7, 2019, this matter was deferred to the May 13, 2019 Council meeting to allow additional information to be collected. This memorandum is to provide Council with additional information related to the matter.

The offer received from Mr. Egger includes only the most easterly portion of this section of former rail line. The entire rail line is bounded on the west by Highway 3 and on the east by Robinson Road. The lands applicable to the original offer are identified in yellow in LSS-16-2019, Attachment 1 (May 7, 2019 CIC Agenda).

Along the entire rail line from Highway 3 to Robinson Road, there are approximately 13 abutting property owners, with several of the properties being dissected and landlocked by the former rail line lands which are now owned by Haldimand County. Attachment #1 to this memorandum is a map of the former rail line which also identifies the abutting landowners. There are also two anomalies along this stretch of former rail line, where ownership is in question. This may need to be addressed depending on the direction received from Council regarding the disposition of the rail line lands.

The subject lands have been identified as future trail lands on the Master Trails Map. The relevant section of the Master Trails Map is included as Attachment #2. Initial comments received during the internal circulation process stated that the County lands should be retained for future trail development. Further consultation took place with relevant staff, following the May 7th CIC meeting. Additional comments from the division responsible for trails is as follows:

The Trail Master Plan identified a potential trail from York to Dunnville. Given the challenge of numerous land ownerships that trail has been removed from the capital budget. However, the portion from Hwy#3 into Dunnville can be developed as an off road route to pull cyclists and walkers from Hwy#3 into Thompson Creek and downtown Dunnville. There is room at the #3 end to build a parking lot as a starting point. Promoting access to Thompson Creek from Hwy #3 helps further expose the location as a destination.

Furthermore, for Dunnville residents developing a 4.4 km linear off-road walking/cycling route (Cedar Street to Hwy#3) allows families to enjoy cycling in a safe and environmentally friendly atmosphere.

Attachment #3 provides a sketch of the subject area and surrounding former rail lands.

Options available to Council are outlined in Confidential Memorandum LSS-M11-2019 to be discussed in closed session in order to provide staff with direction on the future of this property and negotiating parameters, if applicable.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Map of the Former Rail Lands and Abutting Owners
2. Master Trails Map
3. Map of the Area