

For presentation on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Council Meeting

Thank you Madame Mayor, Council Members and Staff for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my community with regards to the Gordon St Easement.

My Name is Susan Lee and I reside at [REDACTED].

My home is directly across the street from the pathway and I use it every day and have had first hand the opportunity to see how much this pathway means to our community.

When the surplus lands sell off was initially presented, many people sent in their comments opposing the sell off of this piece of surplus land. (Public Meeting March 12th re Gordon St Easement #10 on listing).

All the community correspondence to the town voiced an opinion to retain the pathway AND to NOT sell off the land but to keep it as public green space with the exception of the adjacent land owner who voiced an opinion to purchase the land and made a deputation as such on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The staff report came out on June 10, 2024 [Staff Report FAF.24.079](#).

The Staff report had 3 options.

1. Sell the land and rezone for a residential lot. Keep the path
2. Sell to the adjacent land owner with an undevelopable clause. Keep the path.
3. Don't sell the property

Unfortunately the Staff report expressed that Option 1. was the best option for the town.

Council agreed with the Staff report and voted Option 1 with the exception of Councillor Ardiel and Councillor Maxwell who voted not in favour

Now the residents are very grateful that the staff report recognized the importance of this pathway to the community and had all 3 options in favour of retaining it.

However I fear the voice of the people of the community was not heard with respect to the greenspace.

Personally I have already made a financial commitment to the town by purchasing a tree that was planted along the Gordon St Easement.

Jim McCannell purchased at the same time a memorial bench for his father that is along the pathway as well.

Please see attached photo

Bench and Maple Tree planted Fall 2023 along the Gordon St Easement.



This picture looks north towards Pioneer Lane.

I am not sure the exact amount of easement that is being given to the pathway, I am awaiting information from Mr Everitt, but I fear that the bench and tree will pretty much now be right on the property line of the residentially zoned lot.

It also really concerns me that so many people asked for this not to be sold but kept for greenspace in a world where it is quickly disappearing and we can't get it back.

It came to my attention while I was at the June 17th COW meeting that the Town Staff was originally mandated to raise \$400,000 through the selling of surplus properties owned by the town.

It was also mentioned that the financial situation has changed for the town and they do not need the money now for this year. Given that once land is sold it is unattainable to get it back would it not be prudent to listen to the voice of the community on this piece of property where so many residents are in opposition to it being sold off.

At the COW meeting it was mentioned that the Pioneer portion of surplus lands was sold to the adjacent owner on Pioneer Lane many years ago. This was a much smaller amount of land that was in a pie type shape.

Please see attached picture



The entrance from Grey Road 19 is a much wider piece of property; I believe 66' with a lovely park like feel and mature trees.



Unfortunately the west side of the pathway has an extremely high dense fence around it.

It concerns me that if you make this easement a residential lot, we could end up with another fence like this on the east side. Which I believe makes for a wind tunnel for snow to accumulate and compromised visibility for people walking the pathway.

Please see attached picture



To conclude, and I do thank you for your time and patience, I hope that Madame Mayor and the Town Councillors might reconsider their decision on the Gordon St Easement and leave it for the people.



Thank you