



October 22, 2025

To: The Mayor and Members of Council,
CC: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, Carrie Fairly, Acting Deputy Clerk
Adam Smith, Director of Planning and Development Services and CAO
Shawn Postma, Manager of Community Planning
From: Betty Muise, Tree Trust TBM

Re: Staff Report PBS.25.062

I am writing on behalf of Tree Trust TBM regarding Staff Report PBS.25.062, prepared in response to a request from the Beaver River Trail Working Group to protect the Beaver River Trail.

Tree Trust TBM supports permanent protection of the Beaver River Trail by initiating Option 3 (Stop up and Close and convert to a public park) as the most appropriate and effective measure to preserve the trail, the trees, and the natural ecosystem along the trail. We also recommend the implementation of Option 2 to provide protection *while* Option 3 unfolds.

It is important to note that potential future road access and servicing options for nearby development parcels CAN be achieved with Option 3. There ARE alternatives for road access and servicing, and there is no reason that the Beaver River Trail should remain vulnerable to future development. Keeping the road allowances open "to maintain flexibility" (as suggested in the Staff Report) allows that the Trail and the Trail ecosystem could again be threatened. Tree Trust TBM strongly disagrees with any argument to retain the open Road Allowances and in so doing, leave open a continued threat to the Trail.

PDS.25.062 indicates that Option 3 is doable and that these lands can be added to the TBM public park inventory. Formally adding the Beaver River Trail to TBM public park inventory is a win for the Town, the local East Thornbury community, and the many other residents and visitors who use this Trail.

I urge Council and Staff to recognize that the Beaver River Trail is a critically important recreational asset, and so much more. It includes natural ecosystems with healthy established trees that provide habitat for wildlife, sequester carbon, filter particulates from the air, regulate rain and storm water, and provide much needed summer shade. The Beaver River Trail is central to the aesthetic and character of TBM.

Tree Trust TBM joins with the Beaver River Trail Working Group in requesting that Council pursue measures to permanently close the unopened road allowances so that the Beaver River Trail, an asset that is central to the beauty, character and environmental sustainability of our Town, is protected.

Sincerely
Betty Muise, Tree Trust TBM