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Subject: Webform submission from: Delegation Request Form
Date: July 4, 2024 7:52:53 AM

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Submitted on Thu, 07/04/2024 - 07:52

Information

Name

Richard Meloen

Organization Name

Heritage Trail Committee

Address

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Telephone Number

[REDACTED]

Presentation

Agenda Delegation

Non Agenda Delegation

Topic

I have spoken on this issue before, and would like to provide specific new information I wish Council to review

The specific new information I wish Council to review is as follows:

Update on the construction of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. Also some future plans and an appeal for council to continue supporting the trail.

Terms

I have read and understand the Delegation Protocol and acknowledge the information contained on this form, including any attachments, will become public documents and listed on Town Meeting Agendas. I also understand presentation materials including speaking notes and electronic presentations must be submitted by email to clerks@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Monday prior the scheduled meeting.

Yes

Meeting Time

I wish to appear before:

Council

Date

Tue, 07/30/2024 - 00:00

Presentation Requirements

Do you have a visual presentation (slideshow or photos) to accompany your delegation?

Yes

I agree

Yes

Delegation

I will be appearing:

In person

I also understand presentation materials including speaking notes and electronic presentations must be submitted by email to clerks@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the scheduled meeting.

Yes

I acknowledge I have 10 minutes to delegate

Yes

I give permission to be audio and video recorded on the Town of Niagara on the Lake's livestream

Yes

Do you require accessible accommodation to participate:

No

Privacy Disclaimer

I have read and understand the above Privacy Disclaimer.

Yes

Speaking notes for July 30 council meeting

Rick Meloen and Tony Chisholm

Good Evening

Thank you Lord mayor and members of council for this opportunity to bring you an update on the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. The idea of constructing a trail came out of the sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017. The committee decided that this would be a great legacy project. The council at that time fully endorsed this project, as have all council since. For which we are very thankful. This project not only provides a wonderful venue for exercise and outdoor activities, but highlights the town's railroad heritage. The Erie and Ontario railway, in 1854, was one of the first in the province to use steam locomotives. The impact on the tourism, agricultural and fishing industries was significant.

To construct the stone pathway along the 10 km rail road right of way seemed a daunting task. So the 10 km was split into 4 phases, with phase 1 starting at John St. At the end of this year phases 1 and 2 will be complete. Which does not mean that we half way finished, but only 4 km of the 10 km will be completed.

The part that has been completed is well used and I personally get many comments from residents who enjoy the trail and think it is a great project. There have also been initiatives by residents and the committee to plant trees, pollinator gardens, and more than just a few signs. The trail has become embraced by the community and we appreciate and welcome the support we have received. As well support from the various councils, we would also like to acknowledge the support we have received from town staff. We could not have done this unless the staff were on board with the trail. A big thanks to them .

I give the podium over to Tony Chisholm who will be speaking about the fund raising and finances. Tony has been a driving force in our fund raising efforts.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak before council tonight.

We, the Heritage Trail committee, are very passionate about the trail restoration and its progress. We are extremely proud to have raised the funds to complete 4K of rebuilding the old railway bed and transforming it into this attractive, wide multi-use trail for the town of Niagara on the Lake.

I ride the trail several times a week and have noticed a steady increase in traffic- often whole families who are using the trail. I use it for cycling to stay off the high speed Concession1 and enjoy the way it meanders through the trees. Recently on a weekend I counted over 35 people on the trail at one point. And not just dog walkers.

Finances

Todate we have raised \$171,000 dollars All of this has come from the enthusiastic contributions of local people and small businesses here in town.

As well the town securing a grant of \$60,000 from HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE". So, it has taken just over \$230,000 to get us to Line 3. Mind you, it's also taken us 7 years of dedicated work.

Now we're almost out of funds and it is time to move to Phase 3. This is the trail reconstruction that goes from line 3 to Line 9. Our costs for this next section will be approximately \$210,000.

In September we are coordinating a fundraising event called Paws on the Trail for September 7th. This is our 3rd annual event and we already have some nice sponsors lined up. It is a fun event for the humans and their 4 legged friends.

With luck and more support from our donors, we should be able to raise half of this amount. At this point we would like to appeal to Town Council to make available the other half or approximately \$100,000. It could of course be granted over several years. This is our ask today.

IF YOU BUILD IT... THEY WILL COME !