

Report #12/06/18/1102 – The Algonquin Trail Update

Summary of Stakeholder Meetings – Part 1

As promised, comments are noted anonymously. Staff and Council members took the opportunity to explain the situation to residents who had questions about various aspects of the situation. Most of those comments have not been recorded; where some have been included they are in brackets.

Each number below represents the comments from one individual.

1. Great opportunity for usage. Options for ATV and snowmobile users. Great ability to offer out of area people an opportunity to come and enjoy our community.
 - a. From what I've read, my vote, if I had one would be to allow it. Blocking the trail in this small area is detrimental to the entire trail.
 - b. I would like those opposing the trail to go away.
 - c. I would vote that the trail be open for all to use.
 - d. As I understand it, the skidoo clubs have a right to use areas and to maintain. For those who have skidoo passes to use their trails. I wouldn't like to see the general public have to purchase a trail pass to use the trail paid for with tax dollars.
 - e. It should be free to use for all people in the county. If you're a resident, you shouldn't have to purchase a trail pass to use the rail trail – only to use other trails.
 - f. Since Renfrew County has been championing the trail, I would like to see them be responsible for the maintenance of it. I would expect that they would be responsible for maintenance and for the safety of users and residents like they would with any other asset they own.
 - g. I see it as a liability for the municipality.
 - h. There will need to be significant work on the trail before it is usable. It is of no use for cyclists now.
 - i. I don't think lower tier money should be used at all. The county spearheaded this project, it should be financially responsible.
 - j. If its roll out is successful, the community will be able to provide recreational services to the public. It would begin in small dabs, as it catches on with increased use in the future; there may be potential for development. A lot more businesses might be interest then. Now, there would be limited financial return for anyone.
 - k. Once its going, with increased traffic flow, it might be ok to go ahead with something then. Can realize the potential of new businesses.
 - l. It will take a long time, there will need to be enthusiasm to complete the trail in this area.
 - m. It has been beneficial to Pine Valley and Morning Mist. You can see in all the parking lots along the highway – Rolphton motel people parked, taking advantage of the snow here. Snow is free. Returns each year.
 - n. Council is in a catch-22. I live nowhere near the trail. I see it as a benefit for the area.
 - o. I'm sure you've heard this before, these people moved near a rail bed.

- p. I don't think property owners should pay to use the trail; everywhere else you want to run, you pay for a pass.
 - q. Initially, there will be low use. It's not like Pembroke or Petawawa, we don't have the businesses to benefit aside from the store and maybe the campgrounds. There's no Tim Horton's, restaurants, etc.
 - r. What will happen with what we read about Pembroke's decision, to enforce their own rules? To have their own by-law regarding use in the city? (not certain yet, other municipalities have the same authority, even though the county refuses to acknowledge it) (explained cycling grants, cities using own funds to twin sections)
 - s. County rolled this project out. They didn't see the problems until they started it. Now they are recognizing a large number of problems.
 - t. Council will have to make a decision. Not everyone will be happy. They are representative of the needs of the community. They will have to decide. If people don't like it; there are elections.
 - u. Spoke of challenges with diminishing property owners' rights and the Official Plan review.
 - v. Does the county pay taxes on the trail? Maybe you should charge them a million dollars for taxes?
 - w. There must be some way that the municipality can have the county pay more for the use within the community?
2. HCM has the largest section/distance through the county. That will cost a lot up here to get it in a useable status.
- a. Eventually, it may attract people to the area to begin businesses that none of us have even thought of. Potential there.
 - b. There's the hotel up there. That could be something?
 - c. There is potential for people to travel, plan long multi-day trips, go on for a number of km. and stop overnight.
3. You've said the trail is going through; will there be a by-pass?
- a. I think the trail should not be motorized. I used to walk on the skidoo trail in Deux Rivieres and there would be times where two machines speeding in opposite direction and me and my friend would end up up to our thighs in snow because we had to jump off the trail.
 - b. A large number of our roads are too busy in the summer to walk on, and dusty. The highway is too busy.
 - c. Have you ever been in this building when the skidoos go by on the trail? They just fly by, they don't stop at the crossing. Now they'll be doing it near our mail boxes too.
 - i. Spoke about the suggestion at the public meeting to have the traffic stop?
 - d. That's ridiculous.
 - e. I don't want atv's or snowmobiles on the trail in the communities – it's just not safe.
 - f. I've spoken with someone who travelled the rail bed from Mackey to Rolphton and they said they'd never do it again; it's just too narrow. And with mixed use – the atvs will just dig up the ground more. Have you ever travelled the Brent Road? Every year they just dig it up?
 - g. I'm not for a motorized trail at all.

- h. With the machines today, they're noisy. I can hear them distances away, I can imagine if you live beside the trail.
- i. As to development...we've been to lots of places that were run by the municipality, rest stops, campgrounds etc. That could work.
- j. Well anything that happens, I would like to see respect for the people who live along the railway.
- k. I'm also concerned with fire. If there's too much traffic going through in the summer time, it is a risk.

4. The trail needs to be divided to be safe.

- a. With mixed use, horseback, atv's coming by the horse will get spooked and you'll end up...a rider will be down and hurt.
- b. Policing and signs – only some people will respect mixed use. Others will ignore.
- c. (Spoke about racing on roads, weekend warriors.) Yes but some are locals, who just don't care.
- d. If this comes to fruition, maintenance and construction costs for this section will be huge. There needs to be a split trail for motorized and non-motorized or someone will be hurt.
- e. I've lived here since the 50s. There were few machines. People came in, took over our roads and trails, then the pipeline. Soon we couldn't go anywhere without a permit. Need one to use the trails we had been using for years in our own township.
- f. It's not right.
- g. They actually want vehicle traffic to stop instead of skidoos? That is just wrong.
- h. On development ... I can see camping spots along the trail, yurts. That would be good.
- i. Why do atv users have to dig up municipal roads? They can go into the old gravel pits, back roads, why do they need to be on our municipal roads?
- j. Speaking about gates...why do they need the trail so wide, have the gates just wide enough for a skidoo?
- k. There's no reason motorized use can't go around Stonecliffe or Bissett on the pipeline and join back up to the trail after. They can come across at Clouthier's pit or they can go up to Grant's Creek and come across on Crown land. (That's why the bridge was put there in the first place.)
- l. We're concerned with the noise too. No just for certain people, for everyone. You have a machine go by at 2-3 in the morning – you don't need that. People live here for the peace and quiet.
- m. Atv's on roads in summer is getting better. I used to stop people on the road. They were from the trailer park. I asked why they had to travel our roads, told them about another route, away from homes and they do that now – less use.
- n. Trail wardens could take a course with OPP and be trained to enforces speeding tickets. Needs to be will and there is a cost.
- o. I'm for development so long as its not interfering with any ones else's livelihood. Something like the yurts along the river to encourage people to stay would be good.
- p. Respect, not just in Stonecliffe but in Bissett too.

- q. I have a problem with a large group of people who live nearby, who are all for this but if you went down their road and made a bunch of noise, they'd be the first to complain.
5. Any other community would be tickled pink to have this trail as an opportunity for economic development.
- a. (It was explained that increased business for existing local businesses do not increase the amount of taxes paid to the municipality. That if these businesses closed, it would not affect the amount of property taxes paid to the municipality as all campgrounds, motels and other accommodation businesses are taxed at the residential rate and do not generate direct financial benefit for the municipality or other taxpayers.
 - i. If locals were given jobs, that would be a benefit.
 - ii. Indirect benefits exist in support for other businesses such as the local convenience store but not in relation to property taxes.
 - iii. Further, other local businesses have been boycotted for political reasons.
 - iv. The message is that some local businesses are important, but if you don't agree with us, we will not support you. As expressed to one resident who attempted to contract with a local contractor "We don't do business with him." The rhetoric seems to suggest that some local businesses are important, others aren't.)
 - b. The County needs to be responsible for liability right? It won't be the municipality? They've got to indemnify us?
 - c. Re: vehicles stopping at trail – who came up with that? No. That's wrong. (It was mentioned at the public meeting.)
 - d. If there is no direct economic benefit for HCM, no benefit from the skidoo trail you should make sure that the county pays for policing on the trail.
 - e. How many local residents are members of the MLSC? (Not sure, will follow up.)
 - f. What about the use of trail warden's to monitor policing? (don't have the authority)
 - g. If the municipality considers a business venture – it needs to ensure that it has an appropriate business plan. (Yes, it will.)
 - h. Once the trail is used more, will there be washroom facilities? (yes, county responsibility)
 - i. What about the overpasses? (Stonecliffe will be supported for use. Bissett has been condemned and will be closed off.) Make sure that we as a municipality are not liable.
 - j. Council will have to make a final decision.
 - k. You've said that there is no direct financial benefit for the township. Will property values not go up? People will want to buy property here for recreation purposes? (that is up for debate, some say yes, some say no)
6. I've always supported the trail as the Algonquin trail, just not as motorized.
- a. We can leave the rail bed as walking etc. leave the motorized use to the pipeline. We've heard that people don't want it through Bissett too.
 - b. In respect to overpass in Bissett – for hiking purposes, maybe there could be land use agreement with private landowners to create a footbridge to come across the highway.

- c. Comments about divisiveness in the community and how members of the local snowmobile club will not even acknowledge some members of council in public – said hello – was completely ignored. Should be able to have disagreements over issues but still leave the table, shake hands and be part of a community.
 - d. I would like to see the Bissett bridge saved as a heritage site. All 3 modes of transportation in one location. Repair and a plaque to commemorate. Recognition for HCM.
 - e. A lot of people who move here to the country come for the peace and quiet.
7. There is no reason motorized use needs to be in peoples' back yards.
- a. This municipality has always allowed residents to access trails and backroads from their yards via municipal roads.
 - b. The pipeline, hydro line and crown land offers thousands of kilometres of trails away from residences.
 - c. There is little economic benefit for property owners in our community other than a few businesses. Why should their financial gain come before private property rights?
8. So where are we with this trail? I don't want it in my back yard. Last year I had atv users on my property. I asked them how smart they were and then explained that they couldn't be very smart because they had just passed two "no trespassing" signs and crossed private land.
- a. I don't need increased traffic in my backyard. Trespass, vandalism and theft will increase. Who is going to police that?
 - b. Who is going to pay for increased policing?
 - c. Is there anything the municipality can do to stop the trail?
 - d. I think the municipality should start a class action law suit against the county. (discussed class actions law suit from property owners, other groups contesting the county's right to push this trail through – in Lanark and Renfrew)
 - e. I know of other landowners who are against this trail too. I will get them together. There will be a lawsuit. There are some with deep pockets.
 - f. I went to the first meetings and it was interesting that if you had an opinion different from theirs, they took you aside and you never had the opportunity to express it to the larger group. It was all private and individual. That was not consultation.
 - g. If you weren't on board, they didn't want to talk to you.
 - h. I don't want this trail, we moved here for the peace and quiet.
 - i. Economic benefit; we have no businesses that will benefit.
9. I guess we have no choice, the trail is coming through.
- a. I have this idea; instead of us having to look at dust along the trail, couldn't the county do something environmentally friendly and plant wildflowers along the trail to attract bees? Our food sources are being threatened because of chemicals that kill the bees, this would help keep down dust and give us something nice to look at.
 - b. All they would have to do is give us all seeds and we could plant them.

10. Chief Grant Tysick – non-status Algonquins.

- a. Update – I have heard from Chief Tysick on April 11, 2018. He has advised that the local OFSC clubs have moved to provide the requested “free” trail passes. They are apparently waiting on the MTO to comment as passes ultimately come from them.
- b. We have consulted with Lanark, they admitted to not consulting with Algonquins and admitted that they may have to back up two steps. We expressed that we didn’t wish to balk at purchase and cause problems but we want harassment of our community to stop.
- c. The County of Renfrew or lower tier municipalities have not consulted with us; you are the first.
- d. We want to ensure that the harassment of our membership on the trail by OFSC wardens stops. They stop us because we don’t have permits. Even though we are exempt under the legislation, they insist we need permits.
- e. We have asked that they provide us with enough permits for our membership, so that we are not harassed. In addition, when a member pulls up to an event with a large number of others, they notice that we don’t have a sticker and then we are discriminated against. By providing passes at no charge so we could hand to our membership, it would resolve the issue. To date the OFSC is not willing to accommodate us.
- f. I use the trails myself, often. There are lots of people on trails, walking dogs, etc. Users normally show respect, they stop or slow down. Not always.
- g. I’ve seen machines crossing the highways – they try to beat the traffic.
- h. There is currently a disagreement with our community and Pikwakinagan between status and non-status in relation to the land claim. It is in the courts to settle. (explained history of court cases and the “duty to consult and accommodate”).
- i. As to the trail, if they want to call it the Algonquin Trail, they should offer us some concessions so we are not harassed or discriminated against.
- j. We would request the same concessions from any ATV club as we are the OFSC.
- k. The process of this trail is similar to the land claim, a lot was pushed ahead in the dark with no consultation and non-disclosure agreements.
- l. Mayor Sweet and the County went ahead without thinking of any of the potential problems. With a photo op, they move ahead.
- m. You know Dan Park, OPP, they have been caught in the middle of our issues with trail warden’s as well. Have encourage our community members that when they are pulled over, they show their card. Show you have an exemption. Some local warden’s don’t want to accept that. Once they have the vest on, they still cause problems.
- n. We have no known challenges in Head, Clara & Maria.
- o. I’ve travelled through here a lot, to Mattawa, come in to the store for fuel, then off to Mattawa. (Was asked if coming in off the main trail was an issue?)
- p. No, never an issue. People do it all the time.
- q. Should I follow up with OFSC? (Clerk explained that we would present information to Council, Council will provide further direction. I will contact OFSC for their position to prepare info for Council.)
- r. Did OFSC not want to meet? (Explained that they were invited but Mr. Veaudry and the local club were not interested in meeting at this time.
- s. With this trail, Sweet and Whiteduck had a photo op and then took off running. Now they’re being called on it and they don’t like it.

11. Can't please everybody, give a little, take a little.
 - a. Will the trail move forward? Yes.
 - b. We need to respect the people who live here and we need to get the respect we expect from the county but so far have not been given.

12. Quite angry about trail.
 - a. The go by so fast – they hit the rail trail and flew in the air that's how fast they were going.
 - b. The snowmobiles, they zip all over the place, off the rail bed through our yard, between our sheds.
 - c. I let people park in my yard, they sometimes leave trailers here but I'm worried that I'm liable for them on my property.
 - d. Why can't they use the trails back behind Mackey, they already exist?

13. Where are we with the situation
 - a. The speed, who is going to control it.
 - b. We never see them here. If you call, by the time they get here, the persons long gone.
 - c. We allow people to park, how long are they friends if something happens?
 - d. People still park on the road, narrow hard to get through.
 - e. Why do they want on the trail, the 4-wheelers, isn't the rock hard on tires?
 - f. Why do we not get the buy the property back?
 - g. Can we fence along the rail so they can't cut across fields?
 - h. I'm fully against motorized use. Why can't they be stopped at Ashport and directed into the bush so they don't have to come through Mackey?
 - i. Noise is terrible, the 4 wheelers go by, over ½ are drinking and driving and crossing our roads.
 - j. In winter, often, they come up for the day, ride our trails and then go home; they don't spend money here. I see them parked in a couple of places from here to Deep River, who is going to pay for the trail?
 - k. If they're coming from Rolphton, why can't they be stopped at Ashport Road and use the trails that everyone is so proud of?
 - l. They can have access through feeder trails to promote certain areas like the store.
 - m. We need a police presence.

14. I don't see how motorized and active trails mix?
 - a. I don't like it, for someone coming up here to enjoy the beauty, and to go on areas where I could walk/hike to have atv pass scaring the wildlife, nature, that doesn't thrill me.
 - b. What will it do to property values?
 - c. Let's face it; if in your backyard and you're having a nice meal then all of a sudden all you hear is whining.

15. I've been a member of the MLSC, I started years ago
 - a. Personally, I'm not involved anymore; it benefits only a few people.
 - b. Every road and trail that there is, the clubs take them over. They started out OK but now have gone way overboard. Can't go anywhere without a permit.
 - c. There's nowhere to go across the province – the club's gotten too big.

- d. To many homes are in proximity to the rail line, I don't agree with having it mixed. I can't see it being possible – your out there with a horse and a 4-wheeler goes past, or walking and skiing on the same trail with snow machines. Then there's policing, we don't have any here.
- e. Have I not read that if the municipality doesn't agree with the trail being used for multi-use that the municipality has to pay for re-route?
- f. Where does council stand? (explained)
- g. The bridge embankments – they have to be dealt with, is there a time frame? (No.)
- h. I can't see the trail for 4 season use. Is the skidoo club going to have access? A couple of years ago, it got used, we have pics of useage. But the experiences this spring, when we had snow and no one else had, they would just buzz along the rail line, loud, fast – like a race track. They would go through the crossings, just flying – having fun. I went out and got to talk to a few groups – they were from Ottawa, they trailered, were here for the day and then packed up and went back home. The trail doesn't benefit anybody.
- i. I don't think we're in this to subsidize the tourist industry – that's all we're doing.
- j. As for hiking? We're setting up for a few people, who will walk locally. And of those, I talked to “?” and she said, I'm not going out there with the snow machines going past. Now the other 9 months there will be 4 wheelers.
- k. I don't think a lot of local users will utilize a hiking/walking trail – it costs the townships a whole lot of money only to benefit the tourist trade, a very few. So we end up subsidizing the camps and the store.
- l. I don't dispute that they have to make a business, so long as they don't infringe on my life.
- m. When the trains were going through, it was organized, a constant noise that you got used to. Now it's open season, all day and night.
- n. I have some pictures, I went into Harvey Lake and this is the amount of garbage I collected...this is in 3 months' time frame, no washroom so they stop by the signs, have a drink and throw their garbage. What will happen over the whole year?
- o. What about fire protection in the summer? We had a reprieve with the trains gone but now they want to increase summer use again?
- p. They are already abusing the signs – you can see from these pics I've taken – at every point you can see the No trespassing sign and the berm beaten down or the ditch circled to get on the trail. People don't pay attention to signs – they don't work – there's evidence there now.
- q. Private property is not being protected, they go on it to get around berms and ditches – they are visible – dust and noisy.
- r. Then there are the other concerns – how will the county deal with accidents, breakdowns, sickness, access to these people – fires?
- s. I strongly suggest that the trail be re-routed from near properties...the local Stonecliffe people have complained – why is this going by my house – they've felt that way for a while. Why does it need to be there when it could be re-routed?
- t. You can see the damage on the pipeline – ruts – from 4 wheelers, they leave an imprint.
- u. We have had issues there too – there is permission to use the TransCanada for OFSC – at season end, they put posts up to close the trail – people pull them out – that's what goes on. West of Mackey Creek – there's nothing

growing there now. When it rains and washes it out – they then decide to go elsewhere.

- v. I don't want to see motorized use here. They can look at a couple of spots to go around. Here, Stonecliffe, Bissett Creek. I am speaking for my neighbours too.
- w. The trail seems to be used by a few local taxpayers, but by a lot of tourists. Tourist operators benefit, the taxpayer pays. Taxpayers end up subsidizing resorts.
- x. If you're promoting tourism along with atv users, – I don't think we know what we are getting into. Once we agree to that, these groups are going to be pulling in to get onto the trails too.

16. I hunt along the pipeline – it leaves big ruts – they get so bad that I just stay off.

- a. Who's going to change that? How will it be policed?
- b. We have no idea how much traffic there will be.
- c. We need to find a way to promote physical fitness – speed walking etc.
- d. It's the wild west here – we are not going to meet enforcement guideline especially with volunteers.
- e. We want to encourage tourism but not at the cost of your enjoyment of life.
- f. We need to look at this in a different light – after the MNR closed down – it sat unoccupied, then for sale. Maybe a nest egg. It could be utilized to get people off the rail line.

17. (We may require by-law enforcement officers – re-route people.)

- a. Have heard rumour that someone might be buying the Mackey motel and opening it again. Could be another opportunity.

18. We (speaking for a group of 10 people) think the trail is a huge gain for community, for ratepayers.

- a. There will be better access to the general store; it will be an excellent trail for our out of town taxpayers. They love to use the trail system. A lot come to do snowmobiling, they probably do a lot more than the locals. If we can support them to have the trail it will be perfect.
- b. Opening the rail trail, keeps people off private property.
- c. How much pedestrian use do you think you'll actually get here?
- d. For hikers – they don't need the whole area – I'm sure they're going to fix that.
- e. Whatever section is multi-use – just sign it.
- f. Snowmobiling and ATV users bring money. There is payback – bicycles do not.
- g. As for development, we see small businesses, b&bs, restaurant, stop over with picnic tables along the Ottawa River. Outhouses – create more employment with keeping these area going.
- h. As for municipal business – it's a good idea as long as you don't interfere with the private sector.
- i. With private sector – there are no by-laws preventing anyone opening businesses? (no)
- j. So its like "Use at your own risk"? (No, it's trespassing. You can be fined.)

- k. Increase development – question number 4 – We think it should be used right through Stonecliffe – you just need proper signage, quiet zone, speeding – you will always get idiots, no matter where – even on the highway.
- l. The negative affects. We will have to deal with them the best way we can – through signage, policing – they're the 1%. Like anything it takes one to ruin it.

19. They will dump money in the community. We haven't seen anything on that trail compared to what there's gonna be.

- a. There will be room for bed and breakfasts, there is unlimited staff. I do agree that before the township starts anything that private sector gets the opportunity first.
- b. I'm in favour of the 4-wheelers using the trails too – already.
- c. We all agree on ATV's but x. Not sure about you. I think the trail will be used more – there will be less likelihood of pedestrian use.
- d. Now you have to travel at your own risk on the skidoo trail – same thing out there.
- e. (policing explained) – that's the future – money isn't ever available for this end – will be 10 plus years before that happens.
- f. So, I've been listening – until the trail is finished – who is paying the taxes? Us? Why can't we use it? (County paying taxes. Eventually, once fully transferred to the County – they will be exempt from paying taxes.)
- g. Staff explained that the rail line was owned by the County but no one could use it – it was not Use and Your Own Risk – if you use it you are trespassing.
- h. So the snowmobile club has a lease but nobody else can use is? (Yes)

20. We went through this where I'm from, rail to trail. Those who didn't want it brought tons of articles about how the local ratepayers didn't want it, the mixed use.

- a. Subsequently, they did make it available for winter, snowmobiling but not the other.
- b. As far as I've learned from the club there, there were no incidents – nothing.
- c. They have a curfew, and a 20 km. speed limit.
- d. From midnight to 6:00 a.m. people have to use a bypass.
- e. I firmly believe that if its acceptable within the city of Ottawa, I'm damn sure it can happen here.
- f. You just have to put up barriers so they can't use it in the summer time.
- g. As for policing – they use trail wardens, OPP and the City of Ottawa police.
- h. You don't see them here – there the OPP travel the trails.
- i. It doesn't become a real issue; for the most part people are courteous.
- j. This past winter – a mile drag strip was opened up. Once the whole trail is opened up, that won't happen. You can impose a speed limit and a curfew.
- k. I think it will work if you have a 2 year trial period – get feedback from users – residents – then later revisit the ATV issue.
- l. Keep it to winterized sports – most challenges will be in the summer with the ATVs.
- m. All lot of people were against it in the beginning – once groomed they can appreciate it.
- n. You could have scenic vista signs, eg. Explorer point? Observation points – in each community, historic signs/explanations, garbage cans, rest stops.

- o. Maps – you are here – good signage is required.
- p. Widen it – use signage – all users will be a positive. You won't have an influx, a horde. It will just be another artery. Personally, I like going into the woods. Seeing interesting things not just going down a straight line.
- q. It will bring money to the hamlets.
- r. Bring money to the community. There will be positive outcomes. Will always be a few people out there terrorizing neighbourhoods, the rest of the people are respectful and don't terrorize each other.
- s. There will be more homesteads, more people to buy them. More houses. Open up tourism to the area.
- t. Don't chase it away, keep it coming. The population is getting smaller, you need to do something about that.

21. There was an accident on the highway near Bissett – the highway was closed down for 7 hours. If the trail was graded, with stone dust – why couldn't they have exits and use chase cars to by-law highway shut down?

- a. Let so many go at a time.
- b. Long time to sit on the highway.
- c. We could have an agreement with MTO to use the trail for emergency use

22. Is our township the only one holding these meetings? (Yes – aside from Mississippi Mills – Lanark at an impasse.)

- a. The trail is too dangerous now – it's too narrow in some sections for machines to meet.
- b. If it's part of the cross Canada trail – might be a good place to do it. (It was explained that the cross-Canada trail already exists and this would be a connector loop.)
- c. If you divert them around Stonecliffe, they will have to go through private property. I don't want ATVs on mine.
- d. Some sections of the trail are too steep – we won't send the groomer down those sections.
- e. I'm not for it; I would never have voted for this. Isn't it a done deal? (Explained municipal zoning enforcement – Council has input.)
- f. I don't think we should buy it at all.
- g. What about liability for the people using it? Will there be people patrolling it? Township will have to do it? County should be paying for it.
- h. So the businesses? What was their problem? (The thought they would lose business if the trail didn't go past their door.)
- i. The by-pass will take that away.
- j. I don't let them (atvs) on my property. With the 4 wheelers – the gravel all ends up in the bush. There is liability for fires.
- k. The by-pass is another can of worms. I'm not letting them on my property.

23. Who will be responsible for maintenance once completed – if they take in the number of ratepayers – if will be costly.

- a. Don't think you're going to be able to stop it.
- b. Already have problems were that ATV went over last year.
- c. The Bruce - in Quebec – Tremblant – again, the trails are walking, not motorized.

- d. ATC can chew the trail up quite a bit. What are they going to use for the base? Pea gravel – will be significant maintenance. Will the ATV clubs do it?
- e. Maybe you could compromise – have ATV and Snowmobiling at certain times start with them first as is – always open for cycling, walking, horseback riding. Once the ballast has been covered – you can open it up to everybody. Cross-country skiing.
- f. The trail has steep slopes, corners – guys are flying down there pretty quickly. I hunt along the straight of way. I don't know what the regulations are, can you hunt off of abandoned trails. Can you do it?
- g. The county hasn't posted no hunting. We have grandkids up there – without anything being posted – we're concerned.
- h. This will create a new right-of-way. A public trail is significantly different from a railway.
- i. We normally don't see a lot of people – transients – that will change.
- j. Mixed use in summer – with the speed of the atvs – there will be nothing but dust and sand. With the surface they will need, you can't drive a bicycle on it.

24. If this happens, can we have a time frame on it – when will it affect me? – When can I expect the noise, speed,

- a. Council needs to “cover your own butt” it's not working as it is now.
- b. We know there is a risk – there is a risk living along the highway – every criminal on the highway goes by.
- c. With the trail there is also the concern with added pollution, speed, security and fire.
- d. It seems that Council has been shovelling snow ahead of itself. Working hard but not getting anything done.
- e. I am for it up to a point. Multi-use just doesn't get along. How many houses will be affected? How many people?
- f. Do you really expect people from Ottawa to come up here for walking or cycling? Maybe Europeans? But you won't likely see many humans on foot.
- g. The future is ATV – more and more. The rail bed could be ideal. It's not the easiest place to use – need to clear it – grade it – it will take time and money.
- h. The County says it will maintain the trail. Maybe that is a job opportunity for us? We could get paid from the county to do the job. We may have the opportunity to do that?
- i. I'm relatively new, only been here the past 9 months – where I lived before, the trails were a nightmare – garbage was strewn everywhere. Residents were not impressed, there was a lot, everywhere.
- j. They need to make noise regulations stronger – use machine guards, there is a difference between machines going through the canyon than a train going through it.
- k. I'm worried about multi –use. Are people walking, cycling going to constantly be looking over their shoulder to make sure they're safe?
- l. Maybe Council should conduct a trial period – before a total commitment is made. Then can re-assess.
- m. Council can pass a by-law, it legally has the right to stop it. You can't sit back and let people walk all over you.

- n. Municipalities have their own regulations their own by-laws which have to be complied with.
- o. They can't do this without our permission. Again, maybe council could recommend a trial basis – then re-assess.
- p. After a year, we might find that it's the greatest thing we could ever have?
- q. The tourist camps will benefit.
- r. I have concerns with vandalism, along the highway – we've all seen it. There are always people who are kinda shady – this may just open up a new avenue for them to access private property in a less obvious location.
- s. When people go off the trail – how do you rescue that person?
- t. Definitely, the noise of trains vs. the noise of sleds and atvs is quite different. People who don't live along here don't understand that.
- u. There should be 2 trails ideally – one for motorized one for pedestrian.
- v. What about insurance costs? This would be an added liability to the municipality.
- w. The trails should be off limits as before. The club is using the Legacy trail again.
- x. Speed – I don't care what anybody says – they'll speed.
- y. The regulations are set so that any 14/15/16 year old can buy an out of the box machine and be going km/h.
- z. Where do we see the town in 10 years?
- aa. I can't see any reason why you can't have maintenance fall back to the snowmobile club.
- bb. You can't put a groomer down there without spending tons of money. What do we want to gain from this? They want exits to businesses. We have been looking at this in a bubble – it won't be completed properly for at least 20 years.
- cc. Where I am, I have the opportunity for the trail in my back yard. I'm being selfish because with the trail – right now I can't. I don't want to walk on it; I'll be hit.
- dd. Then there will be increased costs for search and rescue.

25. I'm concerned with the future. We've been coming up here for decades. We live at the end of a dead end road. Now because of the railbed people get lost and end up in our driveway. We've lost our privacy.

- a. Don't kid yourself; the trail is already in use.
- b. My yard is being used, our outhouse, its not a through road but now has become an access road. Now its their access point.
- c. We put up gates – the gates get broken – coming onto our private property. They're left open.
- d. The trail has been in use for snowmobiles as soon as the trains stopped running.
- e. The ATV group was using the loop through our property for their organized poker run. Trespass is already an issue. We need to get the police involved and will in the future.
- f. We are right on the railbed. We got used to the trains. The noise from machines is different – snow machines and atvs.
- g. The trail is being used as a hunting corridor now.
- h. With multi-use and new surfacing – we will have to limit our use. We can't snowshoe with the speed of the sleds – you're taking your life in your own hands.

- i. For 5 months of the year – only OFSC can use it. We don't buy a trail pass because we only use machines to access our camp. At camp we ride on our own property. We will now have the detriment of the trail on my front door but no benefit without having to buy a trail pass.
- j. Establishing municipal corporations for business – I'm not supportive of that idea. The municipality should focus on governance, not entrepreneurship.
- k. There is a significant cost to split trails. We've seen it in the Ottawa area.
- l. I'm in agreement with the Mayor – I don't expect a by-pass for us – we're in the middle of nowhere but we need something to protect our area. Signage, special zones, fencing?
- m. One of the county members at the information sessions a couple of years ago was asked if they would help with fencing. We were told no – don't bother – if you put them up they'll tear them down – if you put up signs – they'll shoot them.
- n. Yet we need to make sure that people know that our private property is not another access point.