

December 20, 2016

To the Council of Limerick Township,

Subject: Steenburg Lake North Road Redevelopment

On behalf of the Steenburg Lake Community Association (SLCA), I would like to thank Council for this opportunity to provide some input to the planned redevelopment work of the Steenburg Lake North Road in 2017. The Executive of the SLCA met in October to discuss the upcoming matter and would like to offer the following concerns and suggestions to that project.

Let me begin by saying that we are pleased that Limerick Township has successfully received funding for the project as we know that this has been an ongoing initiative for some time now. In the past 14 years that I have been in the area, I have seen at least two major attempts to resurface this road, and both have met with very short lifespans as the underlying base of the road is not suitable to withstand the extreme weather patterns and stresses the surface has to endure, year after year. The SLCA hopes that by properly redeveloping the entire roadway, that the investments you are about to make in the new year, will be a lasting one.

Having said this, partial feedback that we have received from our membership to date is mixed: Some are pleased to hear that the Township is making this new investment, while others do not feel that the North Road requires full-out redevelopment, and would rather see some of these investments being made elsewhere in the township, most notably to Steenburg Lake South Road.

One aspect of the proposed work that seems to have almost universal acceptance, is the concern for the impact that this work will have to residents and property owners along, and off from the North Road, particularly during the prime seasonal period. For this reason, we would like to implore Council to take all necessary measures possible to minimize the impact and duration of this work so to permit our members to enjoy their properties to the fullest, with the least amount of disruption and inconvenience.

When considering the final outcome of this project, I hope that Limerick Council will join the SLCA in making the top priority the ongoing safety of all who make use of this roadway. This brings to mind aspects such as clear signage, clear lines of sight, appropriate speed postings and, as necessary, enforcement to ensure that travellers of this roadway heed and respect the safety of all users of the road.

As we are not yet fully aware of the scope and extent of the project, and are anxious to learn more of these proposed details, the SLCA would like direct Council's attention to one particular area along the North Road, which we feel would greatly benefit from some improvements as part of the overall North Road redevelopment. We are of course speaking of the public beach area, where the lake first becomes visible to traffic approaching from the east.

We hope that Council recognizes that this is one of the unique areas in the township, where families can come to enjoy some peaceful time by the water. It has been a pivotal point for many events in the community over the years, and the SLCA would encourage Limerick Council to take the opportunity of the North Road redevelopment to make some much needed enhancements to the beach area.

Specifically, we would recommend that Limerick Council take advantage of the heavy equipment and other resources while the road is being redeveloped, to replace the aging and unsightly metal guard rails along the beach, with much more natural and eye-pleasing quarried rocks. And if the township intends to continue to permit the launching and landing of small boats at the beach between September 15th and June 15th, a permanent, and more robust locking gate mechanism should replace the often compromised section of guardrail which is frequently removed during the summer months, contrary to local by-laws. Though we concede there is a need to permit safe access to the lake, particularly to snowmobilers and other users in winter, this capability should never be allowed to threaten the safety or enjoyment of the beach area by others. Providing this more natural barrier (rocks vs. rusting metal railings) would greatly beautify the view of the lake and provide users more enjoyment of the area and the addition of a couple of picnic tables and another bench or two, would round out the enhancements nicely.

Finally, the roadside parking area at the beach should be expanded where possible to make it safer when larger groups are in attendance.

The SLCA appreciates the efforts already made by Council in 2016 with the replacement of the public toilet and new signage, but the above mentioned enhancements would greatly improve the area for all in the community to enjoy. We hope that you will consider these suggestions as part of the overall North Road redevelopment project and take advantage of this opportunity and any economies that may be realized by combining the efforts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions on this matter,

Sincerely,



Pat Stallaert

President

Steenburg Lake Community Association

president@steenburglake.com