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From: Kelly Greenwood
To: <maceacs@halifax.ca>
Date: 28/11/2006
Subject: Berkshire Walkway - Follow up to Chebucto Community Council and Others

CORRESPONDENCE FOR NEXT CHEBUCTO COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Dear Chebucto Community Council Members,

I attended the June meeting of your group asking questions about the Berkshire Walkway, seeking an update as to remediation efforts with a view to reopening the Berkshire Walkway. According to the Chair of that meeting, my questions were to be complied and staff were to respond in the form of a report. To date no response has been provided to me. Please advise when a response will be provided to me, and when the community at large will be updated as to remediation efforts and progress towards reopening the Berkshire Walkway. As of your next regularly scheduled meeting it will have been 6 months since my formal request for information to Community Council.

The request to Community Council is a follow up to the October 2005 public hearing before Regional Council considering the Berkshire Close matter. While council voted to close the Berkshire Walkway at that time, the closure was not without controversy or dissenting views, and the closure was to be reviewed as improvements are made to the area surrounding the Berkshire Walkway. It is the status of those improvements and efforts relating to them that I am seeking information on. I would normally expect such information to come to members of the public through the local councillor, but my inquiries of my local councillor go unanswered. The only information conveyed to me through the councillor is that "conditions have not changed" and "I will not discuss this". These are not responses I expect in a democratic municipality. Whether or not the councillor supports my position that the Berkshire Walkway should be reopened, she should be prepared to let me know what actions HRM is or is not taking following the decision of Regional Council to have the area reviewed as improvements are made.

HRM has, I am pleased to see, recently adopted the Active Transportation Plan. In order to implement it, pedestrian links such as the Berkshire Walkway must be open, properly developed and maintained. Council must make it clear to the public that such links are important for an active community, and invest municipal resources such pedestrian links. Erecting fences is not the solution.

I await your advice and a proper, informative, response.

Kelly Greenwood
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