

Municipality of Lakeshore – Report to Council

Operations

Public Works



To: Mayor & Members of Council

From: Krystal Kalbol, P. Eng., Corporate Leader - Operations

Date: July 5, 2023

Subject: Removal of the Pedestrian Bridge across the 4th Concession Drain

Recommendation

Approve the amount of \$3,000.00 (including applicable HST) for the removal and disposal of the pedestrian bridge that crosses over the 4th Concession Drain that provides access from the pathway along the stormwater pond, through 1203 Faith Drive (Urban Field House), as presented at the July 18, 2023 Council meeting.

Background

In 2009 a lease agreement was executed between the Municipality of Lakeshore and the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board (1217 Faith Drive) to install a pedestrian bridge over the 4th Concession Drain. This bridge was installed to provide access across the 4th Concession Drain to connect the pathway from St. Anne's Drive, (that runs adjacent to a stormwater management pond on Municipal property), through the property at 1203 Church Street, providing pedestrian connectivity to Faith Drive.

This connectivity was to provide Oakwood Avenue/River Ridge residents with an easier alternate access to Faith Drive/County Road 22 and for students to gain access across the drain to and from the schools (St. Anne's and St. Williams).

The lease agreement was required with the School Board, as a portion of the bridge structure was located within the property boundary limit of the school lands (see attached map related to the property boundary of 1217 Faith Drive).

The bridge was installed in 2011 by the Municipality of Lakeshore.

The property at 1203 Faith Drive (formally 1201 Church Street) was previously owned by the Diocese and sold. Unfortunately, the agreement of purchase and sale included a clause that the purchaser could eliminate the pedestrian access/pathway across 1203 Faith Drive, if required.

The purchaser/current owner converted the St. Williams Parish into what is now known as the Urban Field House. This facility is an events venue and has struggled with pedestrian traffic crossing private property and conflicting with the nature of their business and causing interruption during private events.

Comments

Although there have been attempts to negotiate and secure an easement for the bridge and pathway (across 1203 Faith Drive), but considering the pending uncertainty of the property use and sale, a Municipal easement was never established.

The owner of the Urban Field House has provided the Municipality notice to deny/block off public access across their property (via installation of a fence).

A meeting was held with the School Board in an attempt to determine an alternative access through the School Board lands but Administration was unsuccessful in doing so. The School Board is aware of the pending removal of the pedestrian bridge access.

Based on the above, Administration is recommending the removal of the pedestrian bridge to eliminate any pedestrian confusion, conflict and safety concerns.

Signage will be placed in advance related to the removal of the bridge and access to provide advanced notification to regular users of the trail.

Administration will seek other means to restore proper connectivity and access for pedestrian traffic across the 4th Concession Drain through future development plans and agreements.

Financial Impacts

The financial impact is the incurred cost of \$3,000.00 (including applicable HST) to remove and dispose of the pedestrian bridge, to be funded from the bridge reserves.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Pedestrian Bridge Removal across the 4th Concession Drain.docx
Attachments:	- Pedestrian Bridge Location Map.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jul 11, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Prepared by Krystal Kalbol

Approved by Justin Rousseau and Truper McBride