

AGENDA
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK
July 9, 2024
2:00 pm
Council Chambers

- 1) Approval of Agenda
- 2) Delegations
 - a) 2:00 pm to 2:30 - Mary May - Beaver Mines Pathways/Access
 - Submission by Jeff McLarty, former owner of Miners Mercantile
 - Submission by Rick Czarny, President, BMCA
 - b) 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm – Gordon Leskosky
- 3) Closed Session
 - a) Public Works Call Log – FOIP Sec. 24.1
 - b) Corporate Policy C-FIN-529 – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- 4) Round Table
- 5) Adjournment

Presentation to council on Tuesday, July 9

Mary and ken May

Tue 2024 06 18 5:04 PM

To:MDInfo <MDInfo@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Cc:Shannon And Keith MacMillan

>;Cam Bertsch

>;Rick Czarny

;Deanne Bertsch

;Irena And Todd Jackson

To whom it may concern:

I would like to give a brief presentation to the MD council at the meeting on July 9 at 2 PM. The topic is the expansion of the pathways in Beaver Mines in order to make our hamlet a more walkable community. The pathway built by the MD between 4th and 5th Streets beside the highway has been a huge success and is used regularly.

I will look forward to hopefully speaking to the council on July 9.

Sincerely,

Mary May

Sent from my iPad

Submission Public Access - Beaver Mines Community Park

Jeff McLarty <

Wed 2024 06 26 1:32 PM

To: Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Cc: Dave Cox <CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Roland Milligan <AdminCAO@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Ronson Smith

Dear Reeve Cox and Council,

It has come to my attention that a concern has arisen regarding public access rights through our property located at 602 1st Ave Beaver Mines. As you may be aware, the property is currently being leased to Beaver Mines General Store Ltd. o/a Miner's Mercantile currently owned and operated by Mr. Ronson Smith. As a former resident of Beaver Mines and former operator of the Miners Mercantile, it saddens me to learn that the conflict over this long standing issue in the community has escalated to the point it has come before council.

In order that we may find a resolution to this dispute I would like to provide some brief historical context and propose potential solutions. The issue with parking and park access has been developing over many years, the public wants access to the park for obvious reasons and as the store's business has grown substantially in recent years, parking availability has become an increasingly pressing concern. Particularly during the busy summer season, and acutely critical during summer long weekends when tourist traffic is at a peak.

Traditionally, long weekends are when the community also holds various summer events, and attendees regularly park for long periods of time at the store while attending community association events, which necessarily causes parking shortages for the business. This also continues throughout the summer when residents participate in pickleball leagues and other general park use. Despite repeated requests to residents not to do this over the years, it has remained a significant problem for both myself and now Mr. Smith in operation of the store.

With this context, I believe the proverbial spark that ignited the current conflict was actually first initiated by another matter. For a number of years the Beaver Mines Store had a standing agreement with the MD administration to solve another common problem that was occurring with trash management in Beaver Mines.

For many years, both tourists and MD residents had been known to regularly drop bags of garbage off near the fuel pump garbage located at the store, this was obviously not ideal for a number of reasons including wildlife concerns. In order to address this issue, an agreement was reached that the MD would provide a commercial bin and dumping services that would be available to public and the store would provide the location and allow access for both county residents and tourists to dispose of their trash accordingly. It was a win-win situation and dealt with a long-standing public concern in an ideal way.

Unfortunately as administration changed, the MD decided to terminate this arrangement without informing residents of the change or providing a reasonable garbage dumping alternative. They began charging Beaver Mines Store for garbage removal dumps, which is reasonable for its own garbage, but it was no longer fair to expect that the store continue paying for the extra disposal of garbage by the general public, the store then posted signage and began locking the bins to prevent public dumping.

Since the public was not informed of this policy change, they became very upset when they were told they were no longer allowed to dump garbage in the store bins. Several residents, unfortunately, took actions that were very confrontational including making personal threats and dumping trash directly on the grounds of the store property. As you can imagine, this behaviour from the community naturally caused increased frustration from Mr. Smith with the ongoing parking and public access concerns of the community.

What has happened cannot be changed now, but hopefully we can find solutions to address this challenge and deescalate the situation.

In order to find comprehensive solutions to these and other unresolved challenges. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with Council and community representatives along with Mr. Smith to develop mutually agreeable solutions.

In the meantime I would submit the following for Council's consideration.

-As the primary challenge is parking availability, I would suggest the council consult the original structure plan for the community park which does include an area designated for parking.

-This parking area is currently occupied by the horseshoe pits, which would be relatively easy to relocate (ideally to ground that is actually flat and better suited to the game)

-This should provide park users with the much needed parking and alleviate the store's primary concern

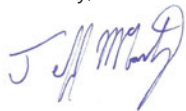
If the MD commits to implementing this change and the community is willing to agree to make a best effort to encourage residents to utilize this parking instead, I believe Mr. Smith will be willing to discuss restoring resident daytime access through the property

I would encourage the MD to actively consider future commercial zoning frameworks along the Highway in Beaver Mines to support the imminent growth of the community and prevent future problems of this nature

I would also encourage the MD to consider solutions to support rural residents in trash collection as well as provide options for tourists who are visiting the area to dispose of their garbage responsibly.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and I hope that we can find work together to resolve this community challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff McLarty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "McLarty" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff McLarty

Beaver Mines walkway

Beaver Mines Community Association <beaverminecommunityassoc@gmail.com>

Fri 2024 06 28 1:34 PM

To: Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Good afternoon:

I am writing this note after speaking with David Cox earlier this week. Please pass it on to David. It is an issue he will bring up during the next M D council meeting July 9th.

Beaver Mines Mercantile has blocked access that existed for several years from the gazebo/tennis court to the store parking area and ultimately the highway. This has caused frustration for residents who used the access/walkway on their daily rounds around the hamlet. And has left only 2nd ave as access to the park. A new dwelling is in place east of the store and people have been trespassing on this property to get around.

I have approached the store proprietors as have other hamlet residents only to be told: "vandalism has caused us to block access, needing room to pile snow in winter. Find an alternate route".

The store owns the land so there is nothing that can be done in that regard. However, Dave Cox proposed that a walkway could be built between the store and tennis court heading west and allow residents a way around the blocked access. As this is public land would the M D consider this proposal?

Thank you
Rick Czarny
President
B M C A