

Mayor McNamara and Members of Councilors,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the purposed plan for the extended trail down Riverside Drive. As a resident on the South side of Riverside Drive, I would like to begin by stating that I am NOT against the idea of improving the area for walkers and cyclists, and I agree that it would be a welcomed addition to our community. However, I also feel that the current plan would negatively impact my property and home value. I would hope that Town Council will hear my concerns and take them into consideration when going forward with their plans.

The current plan suggests the removal of multiple mature trees located in our front yard and the placement would locate the nine-foot path only inches away from the remaining trees. Having the path that close has the potential to harm and even kill these remaining trees. After talking to multiple Realtors, they have expressed that the absence of these mature trees would negatively impact my property value.

In addition to the impact on my property value, I also believe that the absence of these trees will result in an increase of flooding in my area. Our home specifically, has been very fortunate to not have any water issues. The removal of trees, and the addition of paved areas, will ultimately increase the amount of water in the ground. This water may then find its way into my basement or dumped into the nearby river – resulting in possible neighborhood flooding.

I would like to emphasize that it I understand that the removal of the trees on town property is not up for debate (although extremely unfortunate). It is the fact that with them gone and with the proximity of the path to our remaining trees, there is the potential for them all to die. The death of these trees will affect us personally, and I think that that is important for you to consider. Please understand that we are young couple, with young children, who feel very lucky to be able to afford a home in Tecumseh. We appreciate the fact that these trees help maintain our property value, they help prevent flooding, and they even help maintain our energy consumption by keeping our power bills down in the summer

After raising these concerns, I would like to know what actions are in place in 3-7 years from now when we begin to experience the repercussions of the current purposed plan. I look forward to learning about alternative plans and I hope we can come to a solution that appeases us all.

Thank you for your time, feel free to contact me further to discuss these concerns.

Kyle Mailhot