



Briefing Note: Collective Concerns / Questions for Chatham-Kent

Submitted To: Thomas Kelly

Submitted By: ESDPOA Board of Directors on behalf of our membership

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Background

The recent high winds, flooding and damage to the dyke coupled with the resulting road closure has created a lot of concern for property owners along Erie Shore Drive. Previously the main focus of the concerns were related to further damage to private properties; however, the increasing damage and risk of further flooding has resulted in a broader concern for the safety of those along the road. Given the mix of both seasonal and permanent residents along the road, we felt it was important to survey our members to ensure that all issues were being heard, prioritized and addressed, as appropriate. Below is a summary of the major themes and issues garnered as a result of that survey as well as a number of recommendations or requests that we hope to work collaboratively with you and your team to address through the development of mutually beneficial and agreed upon solutions.

Summary of Concerns/Questions

Road Closure

- While many feel that the road closure is a negative thing bringing negative publicity, unwanted attention and negatively impacting potential property sales, there is acknowledgement and appreciation that the closure will assist in reducing further damage to the dyke through reduced wear and tear.
- The road closure signs are largely being disregarded by non-residents.
- Concern about impact on road closure for school buses, garbage collection, and emergency services.
- Broader sharing of decisions made, testing being conducted and results with property owners would be appreciated.
- Should a weight restriction for traffic be put in place?
- What would happen if the decision was made to close the road completely (no access to properties).

Best Practice or Guidelines for Effective Shoreline Protection

- Guidelines are required to ensure that actions to save one property are not done to the detriment of another.
- Further, action to protect the road or dyke should not be done to the detriment of the properties.
- List of contractors that are available to assist property owners (acknowledging the municipality cannot make recommendations nor bear any liability for the use of any suggested contractors).
- Is there a set of recommendations or best practices to determine specifications of steel wall construction that could be provided to property owners? For example:
 - Steel retaining wall height
 - Size, quantity, location of drains in steel retaining walls



- Amount of welding required on wall caps
- Construction of walls that require a permit should be inspected to ensure adherence to approved specifications or submitted drawings.

General Drainage Issues

- Whose responsibility it is to design and enforce lot grading?
- Would the municipality be willing to assist in designing local lot drainage improvements?
- Would the municipality be willing to design a drainage plan/system for the road (some lots cannot access existing drains)?

Need for a Community Disaster Mitigation & Response Plan

- Making property owners aware of the need to notify CK ensuring that property owners know the appropriate person to contact and how (inclusive of contact information for times outside of regular business hours) in the event of water flowing over the dyke or excess water laying on the dyke.
- Ensuring that municipal workers who respond to these calls are appropriately trained and equipped with proper tools/materials to effectively address the issues quickly.
- Need to develop a notification system of some kind to ensure that everyone is informed and in cases of emergency, accounted for.

Recommendations / Request

- Work collaboratively to find short-term solutions to protect the road and the dyke that do not in turn create further damage or undue hardship to property owners. We are all in this together.
- Work collaboratively to develop a disaster mitigation and response plan should there be a catastrophic failure of the dyke to ensure the safety of the Erie Shore Drive community.
- Work together to develop a longer term plan to protect both the road/dyke and properties. As part of this effort, we would like to understand the perspective of the municipality regarding the preferred path forward that would achieve our collective goals.

We understand that in the past the interaction between municipal workers and residents has not always been respectful. Our follow-up correspondence to our members will include a reminder that municipal staff are there to help and while we understand that emotions run high during those times, everyone should be treated with respect and that no one should be creating an uncomfortable or unsafe workplace for your team members. In return, we are hoping that your team can appreciate what our members are feeling as they stand by helplessly as their property/their home/their nest egg/their retirement savings/their family history etc. is being threatened or destroyed before their eyes. Our hope is to create a longer-term, collaborative working relationship with you and your team which will take some patience and understanding on both sides.