02 May 2018

Re: Broken Promises re Construction of the Alternative Trails to the Dunsmuir Loop Trail

For the attention of: North Saanich District and Council: Mayor Alice Finall; Geoff Orr; Heather Gartshore; Celia Stock; Jack Thornburgh; Jack McClintock; Murray Weisenberger

cc: Elizabeth May

Dear North Saanich District, Mayor Finall and North Saanich Council,

Construction of the new linear trails replacing access to the much-loved, well-respected and community-used Dunsmuir Loop Trail is underway, but it has come to my attention that a commitment of constructing a “T-shaped” trail including running adjacent to the Homewood Health road is now being disregarded by Homewood Health. This is absolutely unacceptable. Not only are the thousands of residents, visitors and school children losing access to the loop trail they care for (which had public access granted over 30 years ago), but Homewood Health is now reneging on their commitment to build an alternative trail.

In the limited time I have write this letter by the deadline, I have pulled 8 references to the new trail system – this will not be all inclusive; the commitment to build a T-shaped trail system to allow safe access to John Dean Park is absolutely clear.

North Saanich District and Council: you must step up to protect the interests of the community and provide assurance that the commitments agreed to are met by all parties prior to applications and rezoning. We gave them the benefit of the doubt and wrongly assumed they would fulfil their promises and commitments.
1. June 27, 2016: Council Meeting Dave Smith “There will be a new trail created along the road and through the parking lot to the Carmanah entrance to John Dean Park”
2. Open House: June 28, 2016 – map clearly designates a T-shaped trail including a separate North/South trail system
3. Friday September 09, 2016 – email from Peter Kuran confirming “T” shaped trails

“Hi Laura,

Yes, the trail system is as you mentioned a "T" and heads south to connect the proposed trail to the lower parking lot and Dean Park. It is not shown on the map because it is not part of the Pauquachin accommodation. Homewood Health has agreed to the north/south running portion.

Peter Kuran”

4. Monday September 12, 2016 – Dunsmuir Group Presentation

Slide 11: “The new trails, which in some locations are very close to the existing trails, will allow for an east/west and north/south connection. The new trails will be protected in perpetuity through a statutory right of way and dedication of land. The District of North Saanich will own the east/west connection and the north/south connection will be protected through a statutory right of way.”

---

Dunsmuir Lodge – New Trails

- Realignment of main loop trail, located to the east of the main access road, is necessary for the Pauquachin FN to purchase the remainder of the property

- The new trails, which in some locations are very close to the existing trails, will allow for an east/west and north/south connection

- The new trails will be protected in perpetuity through a statutory right of way and dedication of land. The District of North Saanich will own the east/west connection and the north/south connection will be protected through a statutory right of way

  - Trails construction to be funded by the University of Victoria
  - Over 1 acre of total land area dedicated as an amenity to the community
5. Monday September 12, 2016 – Dunsmuir Group Presentation

Slide 22: - trails marked by the green T.
6. September 30, 2016: letter from Jagoda Pike, Homewood Health to DPECA, and cc: North Saanich District and Council: clearly refers to alternative trails including the “new northern trail” to allow a “north-south corridor”.

4) The University of Victoria is well aware of the community’s desire to have some access to this property. As a compromise, the alternative trail proposal was developed and shared at the public Open House in June of this year. This proposal balances the community’s desire to continue to enjoy this land and also respects the needs of the First Nations community to preserve and protect the culturally important private land that they are purchasing.

The proposed trail solution would provide access across the property along the entire northern border and also allow access through the property to be owned by Homewood Health allowing a north-south corridor. In fact, the new northern trail has been described by District of North Saanich Parks staff as having the potential to be the nicest trail in the District. The land for these trails is provided by the University of Victoria, the Pauquachin and Homewood Health and the University of Victoria has committed to developing the new northern trail. Perhaps most importantly, the alternative trail proposal would provide an immediate benefit to the community as these trails would be legally protected to ensure public access in perpetuity.

To be clear, this proposal does not eliminate access to the Dunsmuir property – as some people are asserting - but presents an alternative routing to the existing trails which cross through the centre of the property which is a particularly culturally sacred and significant area. It is Homewood Health’s view that the proposed solution is a good compromise by all parties involved and respects the desires of local community, the Pauquachin First Nation and other concerned stakeholders.

7. October 19, 2016 Times Colonist, Jamie Cassels: "...there will be new permanent, publicly accessible and dedicated trails providing continued access to John Dean Provincial Park for residents in Dean Park Estates and the broader community."

8. November 7, 2016: Council Meeting provided below illustration (next page), a clear T-shape trail is marked in green, image provided by Luke Mari (North Saanich)
Unfortunately, due to my eldest daughter performing at the University next Monday evening (7th) I am unable to attend the Council meeting on this matter - a great shame, so my letter will have to suffice for this to be discussed and resolved.

Yours Sincerely
Laura Veasey