

July 17, 2006

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Services
John Abraham, City Traffic Engineer
Steven J. Vandette, City Engineer

SUBJECT: **AGENDA ITEM** – Beech Lane Barrier and Road Closure Status

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council consider a request from Beech Lane residents that the status of the Beech Lane closure be formalized by a council resolution. It is requested that Beech Lane between Maple and Cherry be closed indefinitely unless a resolution to open the road is adopted by council at some future date. This status would reflect a long held belief by a majority of area residents since the 1980's and confirmed by the recent survey, that the road should remain closed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Based on postcard responses we received last April from Beech Lane, Hartshorn, Kirkton and Cherry street property owners, only 5% expressed any interest in opening Beech Lane to traffic and only 5% were interested in installing an emergency vehicle access (EVA) barrier that would allow emergency vehicles (police and fire) to pass but not ordinary traffic. With only 10% of residents expressing interest in these options, property owners were advised by mail from this office that Beech Lane would remain closed, except to pedestrians, at the location where new homes are approved for construction. This action was taken pursuant to Council's direction to staff to work with property owners on the type of barrier or no barrier at this location.

A guardrail across the road with an opening large enough only for pedestrians has since been installed at the location where the open Spencer Drain once created a natural barrier to through traffic. The drain was enclosed under a permit issued by the Drain Commission for Oakland County to facilitate construction of new homes.

Attached is a copy of the barrier plan showing the double sided guardrail across the road with a six foot clear opening on the east side for pedestrian passage only. Also included are "road ends" and appropriate warning signs in the middle of the road and wooden bollards at both ends of the guardrail to further restrict access.

HISTORY

Beech Lane has historically been closed at the drain and was unpaved prior to 1985. Between 1985 and 1987 several area roads were paved by special assessment projects. Beech Lane was paved from Maple to the end at the drain and also from Cherry south to

the end at the drain. Pedestrian access was maintained between the north and south sections of Beech Lane by a pedestrian bridge. Between 1988 and 1994 there were several attempts to vacate many "paper" or unimproved streets in the area, including Larchwood between Hartshorn and Beech Lane. This request was denied by City Council since it was deemed premature, as these paper streets may be used to complete the ultimate street pattern for this portion of Section 27.

In 1996 water main related work was performed on Beech Lane and residents on the street expressed their concern about connection and confirmed their desire to keep the road closed. In response to City Council's direction to design the ultimate street pattern for the area, the Planning Department, Engineering Department and Planning Commission held several meetings and public hearings between 1996 and 1998 to discuss all viable options for the area. Based on citizen input at these meetings, no changes were proposed to Beech Lane and City Council vacated the 50-foot Larchwood right-of-way so that there would not be any connection between Hartshorn and Beech Lane, essentially making Beech Lane an independent dead-end street from Maple Road north to the drain.

In 2005 vacant lots on Beech Lane, which had the drain running through them, were proposed for development. Development necessitated enclosing the drain under the road and around the lots. Paving over the drain enclosure provided for adequate access to the proposed homes. With the paving complete this spring, and only a temporary barrier in place; there were further concerns from Beech Lane residents that the City may open the road, despite an April 2006 letter to residents about the survey results, installation and description of the permanent barrier.

Since there is no City Council resolution that states that Beech Lane would be closed to through vehicular traffic, residents have concerns whenever any work is performed in this area and have approached City departments reiterating their desire to keep the road closed. As mentioned earlier, based on postcard responses we received last April from Beech Lane, Hartshorn, Kirkton and Cherry street property owners, only 5% expressed any interest in opening Beech Lane to vehicular traffic and only 5% were interested in installing an emergency vehicle access (EVA) barrier that would allow emergency vehicles (police and fire) to pass but not ordinary traffic.

Please be aware that a recent incident with the temporary barrier has provided the impetus for this request for permanently closing Beech Lane except by Council resolution. On Monday, June 26 our DPW removed the temporary barrier and "No Outlet" sign from Beech Lane. They were acting on a report from the police department that the barrier appeared unsafe. An officer spotted it while in the area on an unrelated matter. He reported the barrels were in poor condition, had no signs on them at all (a road ends sign had previously been in place) and he felt they were not adequate for blocking a street. Therefore, he assumed kids had placed the barrels there as a prank, so he had them removed.

A resident advised Engineering by e-mail near noontime that the barrier was removed. By the afternoon of the same day, our DPW installed a new temporary barrier and the resident was advised by e-mail what had happened. It was also explained that this was not an attempt to open the road or go against any previous council action and that we had

talked to the developer about a schedule for the permanent barrier installation. The developer responded that he was awaiting delivery of materials. It was again communicated to the resident that the material would be delivered to the site on July 11 and the work would begin the next day. The permanent barrier, with a pedestrian opening was installed on July 12, 2006.



HICKORY

PLUM

CHERRY

ALGANSEE

Beech Lane Closure

LARCHWOOD

50' vacated Larchwood ROW

ARTHUR

WOODSLEE

VERMONT

HARTSHORN

BEECH LANE

BIRCHWOOD

MASTIN

LIVERNOIS

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

SECTION 27, City of Troy



RIM 668.02
8" INV. N. 655.17
8" INV. S. 655.27
" RCP @ 3.85%

LF
(2 EA.)
ENDED TO
ENCLOSURE
-76, CL. IV.

RETAINING
ALL
EX. CULVERT (RCP)
12" INV. 661.47

EX. 54" CULVERT
INV. 659.24
END SECTION
GREEN & RIP RAP
STANDARD STORM
659.26

AREA TO BE
W/ BIODEGRADABLE
CONTROL BLANKET
SEE IN DETAIL SHEET
FENCE

4" DIA STORM MH.
WOOD
BOLLARDS
659.25
W/ REFLECTORS
659.25
(RCP)
661.29
(CMP)
660.27

INTENDED TO
ENCLOSURE
MP @ 4.37%
4" SANITARY SEWER LEAD
(PER RECORDS)
54" CULVERT

DOUBLE SIDED ROAD ENDS SIGN
WITH RED DIAMOND AND
2 TYPE II OBJECT MARKERS,
ONE EACH SIDE OF ROAD ENDS SIGN

17.5' ← DOUBLE SIDED GUARDRAIL

5' PED. OPENING
AT EDGE OF ROAD

INSTALL 12" END SECTION
12" INV. S. 665.00

#2166
EXISTING HOUSE
F.F. 672.43

PR. 44 LF 30" DRAIN
ENCLOSURE @ 0.20%
W/ SAND BACKFILL

PR. 88 LF SWALE @ 1.00%

INSTALL 5' DIA. C.B.
RIM 666.00
30" INV. W. 659.17
30" INV. S. 659.17
12" INV. N. 664.00
3" INV. SE. 664.00 (PVC)

PR. LOW POINT INLET FIL
(PER OAKLAND COUNTY)

20 LF PVC SUMP LET
PR. 40 LF SWALE @ 1.00%

WOOD BOLLARDS WITH
REFLECTORS BOTH SIDES
1' OFF EDGE OF ROAD 6' APART

PARCEL B
14,060 sqft
0.323 acres

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STEVEN J. VANDETTE
ENGINEER
NO. 28197
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

BEECHLANE

PR. 30 FT. RIGHT-OF-WAY

50' FRONT SETBACK

10 FT. SIDE SETBACK

5' SIDE SETBACK

PR. 20 FT. FRONT SETBACK

20' SIDE SETBACK

10'0"0"

10'0"0"

667.19

12" DIA

DOUBLE SOUTH

6.00

A21

A22

July 11, 2006

To: Beech Lane, Hartshorn, Kirkton and Cherry Street Property Owners

Re: Beech Lane Barrier and Road Closure Status

Dear Property Owner:

This letter is to provide you with information concerning the barrier that will be placed on Beech Lane, in the vicinity of the new home sites, and a request from Beech Lane residents to formalize the status of the closure.

Attached is a copy of the barrier plan showing a double sided guardrail across the road with a six foot clear opening on the east side for pedestrian passage only. It will also include "road ends" and appropriate warning signs in the middle of the road and wooden bollards at both ends of the guardrail to further restrict access. This barrier was installed by the developer on July 12, 2006.

This office is preparing a report to City Council on behalf of Beech Lane residents who have requested that the status of the Beech Lane closure be formalized by a council resolution. At the next available meeting, their request will be submitted to keep Beech Lane closed indefinitely unless a resolution to open the road is adopted by council at some future date. This status would reflect the long held belief by a majority of area residents since the 1980's and confirmed by the recent survey, that the road should remain closed. The report and suggested resolution is tentatively scheduled to appear on the July 24 City Council agenda.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to call the Engineering Department at 524-3383.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Vandette, P.E.
City Engineer

cc: Brian P. Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Services
Charles Craft, Police Chief
Tim Richnak, Public Works Director
John Abraham, Traffic Engineer
Scott Finlay, Civil Engineer

Steven J Vandette

From: Skrout, Tracy [Tracy.Skrout@ArvinMeritor.com]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2006 1:15 PM
To: Steven J Vandette
Subject: RE: Opening of Beech Lane Drive

Mr. Vandette,

Thank you for resolving this issue so quickly and clarifying what will be happening with the closure.

Tracy

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven J Vandette [mailto:VandetteSJ@ci.troy.mi.us]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2006 12:57 PM
To: Skrout, Tracy
Subject: RE: Opening of Beech Lane Drive

Tracy,

The temporary barricade should be reinstalled today. We are currently working that out with our DPW. Someone in the police department ordered the barricade removed, without knowing why it was there and without contacting this department. This was not an attempt to open the road or go against any previous council action. I apologize for the confusion and any inconvenience that this has caused. I will be following up on this with the police department.

As for the permanent barricade, I spoke with the developer today to give me a schedule for this work. Hopefully I will be able to pass that information on to you this week. What it will consist of is a simple guard rail across the road with an opening on the west side wide enough for pedestrians only. On the east side will be some wood posts with reflectors to prevent people from driving around the guard rail. Of course there would be a yellow road closed sign and red diamond in the middle of the road facing in each direction.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Vandette
CITY Engineer
(248) 524-3383
vandettesj@ci.troy.mi.us

Steven J Vandette

Subject: FW: Barrels CORRECTION

-----Original Message-----

From: Charles T Craft
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 1:37 PM
To: Steven J Vandette
Cc: Edward J Murphy
Subject: FW: Barrels

Steve:
The below refers to the barrels that were removed on Beech Lane. Our officer spotted them while in the area on an unrelated matter. He reports the barrels were in poor condition and not adequate for blocking a street. Therefore, he assumed kids had placed them there, so he had them removed. I can't criticize him as he was being proactive.

We didn't know the street was closed, if you can get us a list/notification of such closings we'll let all the officers and Communications know.

Thanks,
Charlie

-----Original Message-----

From: Edward J Murphy
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 12:43 PM
To: Charles T Craft
Subject: FW: Barrels

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert J Rossman
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 8:22 AM
To: Edward J Murphy
Subject: Barrels

Spoke to Pete about the road opening this morning personally. He said that he believed kids put the barrels in the streets as a prank and that he was doing the neighbors a favor. According to Pete, the barrels were rusty and old and had no signs on them at all. Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Skrout, Tracy [mailto:Tracy.Skrout@ArvinMeritor.com]

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2006 11:33 AM

To: Brian P Murphy; Steven J Vandette

Subject: Opening of Beech Lane Drive

Importance: High

Good afternoon,

We live on Beech Lane Drive and have been to the city council to ensure that this road will stay a dead end. We were told by engineering that this road would stay closed. We also requested that it just stay a walking path and was also told that would happen. Two months ago we came home from work and the road was completely paved with four barrels put in the road to keep it closed. These barrels were moved by people shortly after in order to drive through the road.

My Husband Todd told the builder's assistant about the situation and they moved the barrels back into the road and put dirt in them so no one could move them. It has been two months and no one has done anything to close this street off besides the barrels.

My husband was home from work today and saw Troy city workers removing the barrels and removing the signs from our street that say the road is a dead end and was told they are opening the road.

We specifically want this road closed and were told that it will be. I am requesting that this be completed as soon as possible and that you notify everyone on the street of the exact date that we will have the street permanently closed off. We also would like to be notified of exactly how this road will be closed off.

If I do not here of a plan of action some time today, we will be sure to be at the city council meeting with as many neighbors as we can get together.

Tracy Skrout
2105 Beech Lane Drive
Troy, MI 480836
Home 248-435-1675
Work 248-689-0845

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Steven J Vandette

From: Skrout, Tracy [Tracy.Skrout@ArvinMeritor.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 10:23 AM
To: Steven J Vandette
Subject: RE: Opening of Beech Lane Drive

Steve,

Thank you for your assistance. I will make sure to let everyone know what is going on.

Tracy

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven J Vandette [mailto:VandetteSJ@ci.troy.mi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 10:14 AM
To: Skrout, Tracy
Subject: RE: Opening of Beech Lane Drive

Tracy,

The materials for the permanent barricade are being dropped off today. The work is scheduled to start tomorrow afternoon and may be done by the end of the day or finish the next morning if needed.

Steven J. Vandette
CITY Engineer
(248) 524-3383
vandettesj@ci.troy.mi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven J Vandette
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2006 12:57 PM
To: 'Skrout, Tracy'
Subject: RE: Opening of Beech Lane Drive

Tracy,

The temporary barricade should be reinstalled today. We are currently working that out with our DPW. Someone in the police department ordered the barricade removed, without knowing why it was there and without contacting this department. This was not an attempt to open the road or go against any previous council action. I apologize for the confusion and any inconvenience that this has caused. I will be following up on this with the police department.