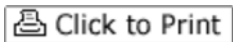




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Pipeline to Senanus may go ahead

By [Laura Lavin - Peninsula News Review](#)

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Water rules are changing in Central Saanich.

Council cancelled a bylaw that would have allowed the district to pipe water to residents along the west end of Mount Newton X Road and Senanus Drive and resolved to go ahead with the project under new rules that will apply to the entire Southwest quadrant of the district.

“It seems to be council’s intent to repeal the bylaw now, while it didn’t seem to be before,” said Chris Paynter of the Mount Newton Neighbourhood Association. Last year the Mount Newton Neighbourhood Association filed in the Supreme Court of BC for a Judicial Review against the District of Central Saanich’s decision to go ahead with the waterline. “One concern that was (again) raised was the main point in the judicial review, why we were trying to get the bylaw repealed. In a sense we won that battle, we essentially forced the district to stop that approach,” said Paynter. However MNNA concerns, including how costs would be shared, environmental impact, archaeological sensitivity and consultation with local First Nations are still not addressed by the new report said Paynter.

“It appears that they really had a pretty strong chance of losing the judicial review, now they’re trying to ram it through another way,” Paynter said.

Council resolved to proceed with the Mount Newton/Senanus waterline extension project with the inclusion of fire protection.

The waterline extension would also include upgrades to the Brentwood water system. “It’s a long time coming,” said Senanus resident Gordon Denford. “It seems to be overly long for the community to deny water to a group. I think it’s part of some forward thinking by council.”

“The original bylaw called only for potable water for residents,” said Central Saanich Mayor Jack Mar. “It will cost more to build a bigger line (to include fire suppression).”

District staff and engineering consultants were asked to report back on the feasibility, implications and cost of including agricultural irrigation capability into the project through options such as priority valves, booster pumps and increased pipe sizes.

“There’s been no real examination of whether or not it’s a good idea to dig up a proposed heritage road ... we still have a lot of concerns,” said Paynter. He and other members of MNNA are also not convinced the need for water has been sufficiently proven.

“Under the rules of a district-led initiative, if the people affected want to prevent it from happening, they

have to undergo a counter-petition process, that (must include) 50 per cent of properties affected and 50 per cent of the assessed value. The way it sits, the residents down on Senanus have 70 per cent of the assessed value, which effectively makes it impossible to have a successful counter-petition,” said Paynter.

The policy to cover all future waterline extensions includes references to both new and existing developments. All extensions to existing developments will be undertaken as district projects as opposed to Local Area Service or Improvement projects and all will be prioritized as part of the Water Master Plan process or other long term (20 year) capital planning process as is the current practice for bike lanes, sidewalks and pedestrian walkway projects.

Those wishing to develop will be responsible for both costs and constructing service to new developments and subdivisions. All future waterline extensions will be built to provide fire suppression capability.

“We certainly need to have a discussion with our lawyers about this; and our Annual General Meeting is coming up shortly, so I’m sure we’ll have a serious discussion about what our next moves will be,” said Paynter.

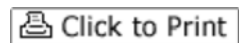
“It’s a welcome change,” said Denford. “The members of council should be lauded for taking a proactive view.”

editor@peninsulanewsreview.com

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