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Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:36 AM

To: Common Clerk <commonclerk@saintjohn.ca>; City of Saint John Mayor's Office <mayor@saintjohn.ca>; MacKenzie, John <john.mackenzie@saintjohn.ca>; Harris, Brent <brent.harris@saintjohn.ca>; Sullivan, Gary <gary.sullivan@saintjohn.ca>; Killen, Joanna <joanna.killen@saintjohn.ca>; Norton, Greg <greg.norton@saintjohn.ca>; Ogden, Barry <barry.ogden@saintjohn.ca>; Hickey, David <david.hickey@saintjohn.ca>; Lowe, Gerry <gerry.lowe@saintjohn.ca>; Radwan, Paula <paula.radwan@saintjohn.ca>; Stewart, Greg <greg.stewart@saintjohn.ca>

Cc: saverockwoodpark@gmail.com

Subject: Please rescind motion to designate 1671 Sandy Point Road property as surplus

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To the entire common council of Saint John,

On February 20, 2024, the Saint John Common Council passed a motion to declare #1671 Sandy Point Road, a part of Rockwood Park, as surplus land without any public consultation.

While I support growing Saint John and reducing the vacancy rate, there are plenty of areas for housing development that would not compromise Saint John's prized urban park. This park is used by citizens of Saint John and beyond during all seasons. The Council must remember that one of its most important responsibilities is to preserve and protect this city's cherished green space. Please do not sell off any part of Rockwood Park for potential short-term gain.

*I request **that this motion be rescinded** as soon as possible when the full council is present. Further, I encourage the Mayor to **restore public trust** by immediately committing to eliciting public opinion through a consultation period for every decision that will have lasting impacts on how the land within the boundaries of Saint John city parks will be used (including but not limited to*

Rockwood Park). This includes consultation on selling, rezoning, surplus or any other use that has the potential to impact environmental or aesthetic values.

Rather than selling lot 1671 Sandy Point Road for development, **I would like to see the areas of Rockwood Park along Sandy Point Road protected by a conservation agreement** (conservation easement or covenant) to ensure the long-term enjoyment of this cherished green space. I also **encourage the city to develop a plan for 1671 Sandy Point Road**. This may include taking advantage of sunk costs by building park facilities or reforesting cleared land.

I worry that rezoning, selling and developing 1671 Sandy Point Rd will:

- set an unintended, short-sighted precedent – which may help to "clear the way" for other areas of Rockwood Park that are not protected by a conservation agreement to be developed.
- have impacts on the environment - 70% of the property is forested and therefore provides habitat to wildlife and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- increase the input of salt and effluent from vehicles into the lake.
- increase traffic issues in this area, which will pose a risk to human and wildlife health,
- affect the enjoyment of park users hiking on trails near Harrigan Lake,
- diminish the economic and intrinsic value of the park

Rockwood Park is a gem, just the way it is. We should take pride in having one of the largest urban city parks in Canada, instead of trying to sell it off for future developments. There are hundreds of buildings in the city that have the potential to be properly repaired/restored. There are several locations throughout the city that already have vacant lots and that do not need to be clearcut for development. I urge you to please rescind the motion to surplus this property as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Eric Pollard

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