

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 12:09 PM

**To:** Jeanne Langlois; Lana Mangiapane; Karen Reilly; Robin Buxar; Mike Bailey; Frank Ferriolo; John Giannangeli

**Subject:** Mill Race Neighborhood

September 25, 2018

Dear Oakland Township Board of Trustees (BOT),

We appreciate that the Paint Creek Mill Race was on the BOT agenda on September 11, 2018. Unfortunately, this topic has remained unresolved since 2011. The present status of

the mill race has been more than frustrating and even more frustrating for us based on what we observed and heard at the 9/11/2018 meeting. We were hoping to see support from Oakland Township for moving forward.

The residents along the Paint Creek Mill Race are requesting action be taken on the unsafe conditions in the mill race immediately. The BOT's vote to remove the dam in September 2011, has stopped the water flowing down the mill race to the Paint Creek Mill. The races' water current flushed the silt and diluted the pollutants that came from the two storm drains by Orion Road. Now those drains deposit silt into the mill race. The silt remains at the wash-out point of the storm drains and has created a dirt dam. Polluted storm water and rain water, has created pools of standing water in our selections of the mill race. We have become a detention pond. There is no place for the water to go. It grows algae, insects and has an unpleasant odor. We cannot be safety in our yards. We worry that the algae may be toxic. We, the home owners had our soil tested in the four months after the dam was removed, in January 2012. The soil was clean and safe for removal. It is our understanding that now this is not true, that the soil no longer tests clean because of the contaminates that wash off the road, parking lots and road sides, through the two storm drains (ECT civil engineering soil tests).

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Before the dam was removed and the head-race filled in with the spoils of the creek, we had constantly flowing fresh water from Paint Creek into the mill race. We did not have standing water. Some of us have artesian wells that overflows the well water into the mill race. We are concerned that our wells will become contaminated from the mill race pollutants. Those wells are our drinking water. We also worry about increased flood water volume and bank erosion on Paint Creek, now that the water is not split between the creek and the mill race after 175 years. We hope you all realized that a water current flowed through the mill race since 1827, until 2011, that is 184 years.

The township is the only one that may obtain water flow from the Paint Creek from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). We own the land but you, Oakland Township, own the water. If you want to lose the route for the water to the mill, the BOT needs to decide. We want flowing water in the mill race. We do not want to be the ones that terminates the historic connection for the mill to have water. We believe some members of the board want our neighborhood to take the political heat for stopping the route. Our neighborhood fought the decision to remove the dam from the beginning of this project. We tried to convince the BOT in 2011 not to trust the dam removal project plan. The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) promised this project would be "at no cost to the township". It is our understanding that the BOT did not have an engineering firm research and explore what the mill race environment would be like, after the dam removal. It is also

our understanding that there was no independent research about anything connected to the mill race, for the BOT to even make an educated vote, yet they voted to remove the dam on the words of the CRWC. The Mill Race Residents request a professional solution and action taken to solve the poor choices, we believe, that previous BOT made in 2011 that effected our properties.

We request that the BOT make a decision to solve this situation soon. It has been seven years. The mill race neighborhood wants to move on and to be able to safely enjoy our own homes and yards.

Sincerely Yours, The Mill Race Neighborhood

Greg and Jan Olson, [REDACTED] Orion Road

Judy and Bob Spitz, [REDACTED] Orion Road

Diane Praet, [REDACTED] Orion Road

Roger Dudley, [REDACTED] Orion Road