

Douglas and Tia Moore

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Whistler, BC, V8E 0E5

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are a family that has recently moved to Whistler from Hong Kong. We have owned property in Whistler for many years and have spent every school break in Whistler during that time. Since moving to Whistler full time we are assessing various ways to contribute to the community.

We are writing to you as supporters of the White Gold utilities undergrounding project. Quite frankly, we were surprised when you decided on 17 November to review your decision on December 1st. The decision of the Mayor and Council on 3 November 2020 to progress the White Gold undergrounding project was decided through a democratic process as established under the Community Charter with 58% of the neighbourhood casting their vote in support of the project.

We get it that there are about 10% of the owners who are disappointed with the result of the vote. To address the concerns of this small minority, one of our White Gold neighbours [REDACTED], has kindly offered to lead a group with a mission to simplify the installation of utility connections on private property, through a not for profit initiative of reducing cost through leveraging our bulk purchasing power, consolidating project management and consulting work. A website has been established already to start collecting information from owners and engaging with relevant trades.

It is not up to us to judge how the Mayor and Council are prioritizing your agenda but we would like to share with you our main concern. The explosion in Covid rates in Whistler has been greatly contributed to by Vail having inadequate safeguards in staff housing. This is fundamental to the safety of the employees, the community ultimately and the economy. With this mega issue on the table, was there really time and bandwidth to reconsider a duly made democratic process community decision? Our community needs real leadership right now in challenging times. This requires focus on the issues that matter and is not distracted by noise.

You should also be mindful that by empowering a small but vocal group, you are creating a dangerous precedent of not respecting democratic process and what is in the best interest of the overall group. For example, fire smart is undeniably for the community good. But what if a small but vocal group does not want to see a single tree cut down? You would never build a new community with overhead wires and this is a once in 20 years chance to address a safety issue in an overall cost effective way.

Yours truly,

Douglas and Tia Moore