



Town Council & To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Brittany Brooks and I am the Owner & Director of Brooks Academy of Dance. My studio is located in the heart of downtown Tillsonburg, between Library Lane and Cowards. Each week I have between 150-175 students congregating into the downtown hub for dance classes. Library Lane is a popular walkway to use for not only my students, but also their family members to visit other local businesses as they wait for their dancers to finish up classes. Not only do I continue to hear complaints over Library Lane from my patrons, but I myself as a business owner have my own concerns in regards to this pathway.

Our town continues to grow, and as a whole we push to promote “downtown shopping” at businesses in the core. I am certainly in agreement with this, however places like Library Lane need to receive some updates/safety modifications to continue to serve the community positively and be a more appealing area to visit.

Concerns:

1. Lighting- While I am sincerely grateful the building owner of 1 Library Lane has put up motion sensor lighting on his own accord, it would be extremely beneficial to all community members that the town invest in better lighting for Library Lane. In the colder months, it gets darker much quicker and my students and families are nervous to use the walkway with the ominous lighting it provides.
2. Structural & Aesthetic Improvements- In the 15 seasons we have been open, I don't believe Library Lane has seen any structural and aesthetic improvements. It looks run down, dated and has become a less favorable environment for the community to walk through (including myself).
3. Customer Acquisition- We have new businesses opening in the downtown area. However, places like Library Lane make it more difficult to promote new clientele to walk through their doors. When the shoe is on the other foot, established businesses continue to fight the battle to draw in new clientele and appeal to the community in areas that are known to be uninviting. This very much inhibits and hinders growth of your local businesses in the area- a place where the town pushes/promotes the community to shop and visit.

I hope my voice is heard today although I cannot be there in person. I have families who have told their children they are not allowed to use Library Lane in the day even and some in the evening. These improvements would very much have a positive impact on not only the surrounding businesses but also the community that they service.

Regards,  
Brittany Brooks  
Director