

Please see the resolution below that was passed by Orangeville Council last night.

Resolution 2020-426

Moved by Councillor Peters

Seconded by Mayor Brown

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation introduces several changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications;

AND WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without conservation authority watershed data and expertise;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

AND WHEREAS the budget that Orangeville spends on conservation authority work is a bargain for the services provided;

AND WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on conservation authority boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the conservation authority boards should be duly elected;

AND WHEREAS it has been the Town of Orangeville's experience with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority that having a chair or vice-chair serve for more than one year has produced experienced individuals;

AND WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within conservation authority jurisdictions for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value conservation authorities' work to ensure safe drinking water;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: (i) the Province of Ontario repeal Section 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229), and (ii) that the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape; AND

THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, MPP Sylvia Jones, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks Jeff Yurek, the Minister of Finance Rod Philips, all Conservation authorities throughout Credit Valley, and all Ontario Municipalities

Carried

Thanks,

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