

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2015

Item 20, Report No. 20, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 19, 2015.

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**NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA –
REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO MACMILLAN FARM
WARD 4**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Planning and the Director of Parks Development, dated May 5, 2015:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning and the Director of Parks Development, in consultation with the Senior Manager of Real Estate recommend:

1. That the Clerk be authorized to execute the Permission to Enter and Access Agreement the PEAA and all other documents required to facilitate the agreement;
2. That Council authorize an agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to provide for occasional access to the MacMillan Farm property for the purposes of providing parking and access to their adjacent lands as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report; and
3. That the Nature Conservancy of Canada be permitted use of the MacMillan Farm property access area outlined in Attachment 1 as a staging area for the 2015 Ontario BioBlitz - Don River Watershed event to be held on June 13-14, 2015, as outlined in this report.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, specifically:

Goal 2, Objective 2.2

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

Economic Impact

The provision of occasional access to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is proposed as an in-kind service arrangement with no operational requirements or obligations on behalf of the City.

Communications Plan

The requested access does not conflict with the terms of the two existing residential leases on the City property; however, staff will be contacting each of the tenants to inform them of the proposed occasional access and the request to use the access area on June 13-14, 2015 as a staging area for the Ontario BioBlitz event.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request that occasional access to the MacMillan Farm property be granted to the NCC, including use of the MacMillan Farm property as a staging area for the upcoming Don River BioBlitz event scheduled for June 13-14, 2015.

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Background - Analysis and Options

Request for Occasional Staff Access

Following Council approval of the MacMillan Farm Business Case and Operating Plan in March 2015, the NCC contacted staff to request that an arrangement be established to permit the NCC occasional access to the MacMillan Farm property for the purposes of NCC staff parking and access to NCC lands surrounding the site. The provision of occasional access is important for providing NCC staff a safe, efficient way of accessing the NCC lands to conduct site inspections and/or management activities as required. It is anticipated that the required access will be limited to approximately 12 visits per year (once per month), with an average of 1 to 2 vehicles per visit. The term of the access agreement is proposed to be 5 years; until such time that the MacMillan Farm property is officially open for public use. The proposed NCC access area will be limited to the location shown in Attachment 1.

Staff reviewed the request in respect of the current lease arrangement for the two residential dwellings that are on the MacMillan Farm property and confirm that the area requested does not impact the residential uses or terms of the leases. However, staff will be contacting each of the tenants to inform them of the request and will require NCC to provide prior notice of access. Public access to the site is not proposed with this arrangement.

2015 Ontario BioBlitz Event

In addition to the request for occasional access, the NCC announced that an annual event called the Ontario BioBlitz is scheduled to take place on June 13-14, 2015 at select sites along the Don River Watershed. The NCC lands surrounding the MacMillan Farm site have been identified as a potential host site for this event.

The Ontario BioBlitz is an annual event sponsored by the Ontario Science Centre that brings together scientific experts as well as the general public to host sites throughout a select area. Together these volunteers work to inventory all species (plants, animals, fungi, etc.) over a 24 hour period, recording their findings into data sets, which will be used to provide an indication of the biodiversity of the select sites at this point in time.

Having the NCC lands surrounding the MacMillan Farm property used as a 2015 host site will provide important environmental benefits in an event that will engage local residents and highlight the importance of Vaughan's natural environment. Additional information on the 2015 Ontario BioBlitz is included as Attachment 2.

In order to support this event, the NCC is requesting use of the MacMillan Farm as a staging area, which is anticipated to require parking for approximately 10 to 15 vehicles. Staff also reviewed this request with the current Tenants and based on their acceptance recommend that use of the MacMillan Farm property as a staging area for this event be supported.

Pursuant to Council's approval, Real Estate Department staff will be preparing a standard Permission to Enter and Access Agreement with NCC allowing access into the site.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the project will provide:

- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Demonstrate Excellence in Service Delivery; Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness and Manage Corporate Assets.

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Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Staff reviewed the request from the NCC to permit occasional access to the MacMillan Farm property, including use of the MacMillan Farm property as a staging area for the upcoming Don River BioBlitz event scheduled for June 13-14, 2015 and recommend that the City enter into an agreement with the NCC to provide access as outlined in this report.

Attachments

1. Map of Proposed Occasional Access Area
2. 2015 Ontario BioBlitz Event Information

Report prepared by:

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)