

October 16, 2012

Mayor and Council
City of Vaughan
Clerk's Office
E: Jeffrey.Abrams@vaughan.ca

C	<u>1</u>
Item #	<u>7 & 8</u>
Report No.	<u>39</u>
<u>Council - OCTOBER 30/12</u>	

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OCTOBER 16, 2012,
ITEM #7, DIRECTION TO REPORT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE AND BUDGET PREPARATION
OF THE NEW COMMUNITY AREAS SECONDARY PLAN(S)
ITEM #8, BLOCK 27 & 41

I have attended three meetings to learn and share input on the current Natural Heritage Network Study (NHNS) taking place in Vaughan. As I see it phase 1 was to pull together all existing records & documentation, with phases 2, 3, and 4 involving further field studies to determine where best to expand or contract current boundaries for forest, linkage, field/meadow and wetlands.

I am very disappointed to learn that the secondary plans for the urban expansion in blocks 27 and 41 will proceed without the completion of phases 2, 3, and 4 in these areas.

These northern areas of Vaughan hold the best areas where the Natural Heritage Network could be expanded as determined by the collection and analysis of data. Ideally the Natural Heritage Network Study for all of Vaughan should be completed prior to any development in these undeveloped areas, however at a minimum, all four phases of the NHN Study should be completed for blocks 27, 41 and adjacent areas prior to starting any secondary plans for these blocks. I question how those involved with the development of secondary plans can start without first knowing which areas, wildlife and habitat, need to be protected.

The NHN Study is also crucial in determining where the infrastructure for blocks 27 and 41 should go, as well as where the infrastructure should go for the new employment lands.

That being said, many new homes will be built in these two blocks and many new people will move into these areas. More people will be commuting to and from, using the existing roads, and adding to the existing congestion, gridlock and frustration felt by the citizens of Vaughan.

The ways to reduce this added congestion, gridlock, and frustration would be to only develop the lands of block 27 and 41 as the employment lands and transportation network in the area are developed. The transportation network should include bike paths around the new communities with routes to and through the employment lands (ideally not on the roads that motorized vehicles use). There should be walking paths that cut through streets to minimize walking distances to schools, community centres, main arterial roads (and public transit) and employment areas. And public transit should be up and running as the newcomers move into

their new homes so they can develop new “healthy and environmentally friendly” transportation “habits”. Ideally the new GO Station should come online before, or at the same time.

The City of Vaughan has a great opportunity to create a new community that will be the envy of all Vaughan residents, a healthy and green community that residents will be proud to live in. I urge Council to make sure that the right steps are taken to ensure that this happens.

Complete Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Natural Heritage Network Study in Blocks 27 & 41 and the areas adjacent to these blocks prior to starting any secondary plans for these areas.

Only develop the lands of block 27 and 41 as the employment lands / jobs, and the transportation network in the area are developed.

Sincerely,
Susan Sigrist
27 Matterhorn Road
Maple, ON L6A 2V4