

HUMPHRIES PLANNING GROUP INC.

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Communication
cw: <u>June 16/15</u>
Item: <u>10</u>

June 15, 2015
HPGI File: 0449

City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L4A 1T1

Attn: Jeffrey Abrams, City Clerk

Re: Comments on Natural Heritage Study - City File - 25.5.4
Committee of the Whole Meeting June 16, 2015
Vaughan 400 North Landowners Group
Blocks 34W and 35

We write on behalf of the Vaughan 400 North Landowners Group (Blocks 34W and 35).

The current approvals for the lands owned by the Group are embodied in OPA 637, the result of an O.M.B. mediated settlement involving the Province, Region, TRCA, City and our clients. OPA 637's underlying policies for natural heritage purposes are in OPA 450. That is the basis upon which the multi-party agreement was struck.

Several meetings have occurred between representatives of the Group, City Staff and the NHN consultant team, the most recent of which was held on October 17, 2014. Subsequently, meeting minutes were prepared by the City which confirm agreement that OPA 637 is based on OPA 450 policies, and that it is these underlying policies which are applicable to Blocks 34W and 35, and that the new NHN policies, if they are ultimately approved, will not. We have requested written acknowledgment to this effect on at least three occasions (as early as January 2015 and most recently in April 2015). Despite repeated attempts to obtain this information, no response has been provided.

A comment letter (enclosed for convenience of reference) and delegation were presented at the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting, outlining our client's concerns to Committee and Staff.. Based on our review of the June 16, 2015 Natural Heritage Network Report to the Committee of the Whole, there is still no acknowledgement as requested by us, nor are changes proposed to the Study to address our comments.

HPGI's meeting minutes from our Oct. 17, 2014 meeting with City Staff are clear: OPA 450 and 637 are the applicable policy framework for the Block 34W and 35 block plan process. We now find ourselves in a position where we must request that Council direct staff to provide the written acknowledgement that we have been requesting.

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Alternatively, Council could, as part of its consideration of this Staff report, adopt a resolution that OPA 450 and 637 are the applicable policy framework for the VN400LG's lands, and not the NHN study policies.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at extension 246.

Yours truly,

HUMPHRIES PLANNING GROUP INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McConville', written in a cursive style.

Mark McConville, MCIP, RPP, MScPI

Senior Planner

cc: Mr. John Mackenzie, Commissioner of Planning
Mr. Tony Iacobelli, Environmental Planner
Clients