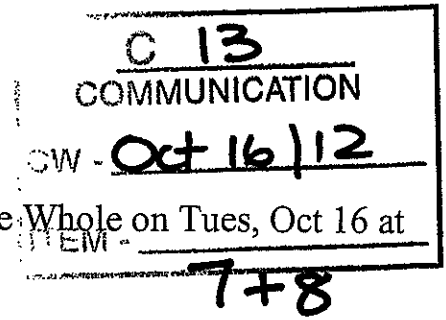


Oct 15, 2012

Hello Mr. Abrams,

I would like to speak to #8 on the agenda of the Committee of the Whole on Tues, Oct 16 at 1 PM.



I would advocate that the City completes the Natural Heritage Network Study before proceeding with development of blocks 27 and 41 and that the assessment of the value of the natural heritage should not be done by property owners, but by a body, fully qualified to observe and assess the significance of their natural lands and in an unbiased manner.

In order to create the conditions in which a person finding a job in the new employment lands in Vaughan may also purchase a home close by, I would advocate that the employment lands be developed along with, or before the housing developments.

I also believe that a financial impact study should be done to discern the future maintenance costs and the net benefit to the taxpayers of the City. I believe it makes sense that slower and more methodical development will spread all development costs over a longer period of time and make the future maintenance of infrastructure more financially viable for the City.

Cities need to revise the development process to make it financially feasible in the long term. Where ongoing infrastructure maintenance costs are greater than the increased tax base of the development, the process must be re-thought. The current process is not sustainable, and in this case is likely to be detrimental not only to our economic viability, but also to our valuable natural heritage.

I believe that the tough sledding comes when the Council begins implementing the Official Plan with its sustainability mission. As a taxpayer, I would expect Councilors to withstand outside pressures and to hold on to those priorities with a clear vision of what is good for Vaughan.

Thank you,  
Martha Bell