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Communication
CW (PH)
May 3, 2016

Item - 4

Subject: FW: Tree Removal (Woodend Place)

From: DiGirolamo, Diana
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: FW: Tree Removal (Woodend Place)

Communication for 11, 31, and 51 Woodend Place (files OP.16.003, Z.15.032 and 19T-15V011) – Public Hearing date May 3, 2016

From: Joe Collura [mailto:joe.collura@gmail.com]
Sent: February-25-16 6:20 AM
To: Iacobelli, Tony
Cc: DiGirolamo, Diana
Subject: Re: Tree Removal (Woodend Place)

Thank you for follow up Tony. I do note a significant amount of objections that have been brought forward with respect to the proposed NHN amendments including insufficient lead time for impacted parties/communities to interpret the recommendations. I will investigate that further.

In the mean time, I do note the below changes. While I (& my neighbours) may not necessarily agree with the proposed changes & will deal with that accordingly, as this relates to the subject lands (Woodend Place), would the current application not be consistent with even the proposed NHN (I know that is definitely the case for the current view of the NHN)?

And to the point about community opposition regarding the proposed NHN amendments, how can we ensure our community objection(s) form part of the deputations against the current recommendations?

Current NHN per Schedule 2 of VOP

Proposed NHN per Schedule 2B Phase 2-4 Natural Heritage Network Study

On 24 February 2016 at 09:07, Iacobelli, Tony <Tony.Iacobelli@vaughan.ca> wrote:

Dear Mr. Collura,

I am aware of the issue of the tree removal on the site and will be assisting where I can in the planning process.

I understand that Diana DiGirolamo has provided information to you to interpret the Vaughan Official Plan (VOP 2010) and I can assist her in that regard. You may also wish to review the City's Tree Protection By-Law (http://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/by_laws/Bylaws/185-2007.pdf).

You may wish to review the latest reports and recommendations from the Natural Heritage Network (NHN) Study (http://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/natural_heritage/Pages/default.aspx). The NHN Study is not adopted by Council.

Kind regards,

Tony

From: Joe Collura [mailto:joe.collura@gmail.com]
Sent: February-23-16 8:40 PM
To: Iacobelli, Tony
Cc: Sam Wadhwa; Katie DeBartolo; Dan4730173@hotmail.com; cg m; Marisa I; Jenniferscioli@hotmail.com; Gerard Biasutto; Nicole Grisolia; dino.dascanio@bell.net; Lisa Gagliardi; Lilli Chan; Tanya Varvara
Subject: Fwd: Negligent Tree Removal (Woodend Place)

Good evening Mr. Iacobelli,

I. along with many residents, are compiling a strong objection against any request to amend the current lands contained with the Natural Heritage Network. Among other things, the below communication represents part of our concerns & we have engaged city officials accordingly & are awaiting all city details with respect to the removal of this woodlot.

We would like to understand what other actions are available to ensure our voices, as residents, form part of this process & ultimately are included in support of the existing Core Features.

Thank you for your attention.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Joe Collura** <joe.collura@gmail.com>
Date: 20 February 2016 at 14:23
Subject: Negligent Tree Removal (Woodend Place)
To: parks@vaughan.ca, Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: rosanna.defrancesca@vaughan.ca, nancy.tamburini@vaughan.ca, "DiGirolamo, Diana" <Diana.DiGirolamo@vaughan.ca>, bill.kiru@vaughan.ca, Tanya Varvara <tanyavarvara@me.com>, maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca, mario.ferri@vaughan.ca, tony.carella@vaughan.ca, michael.dibiase@vaughan.ca, gino.rosati@vaughan.ca, sandra.racco@vaughan.ca, alan.shefman@vaughan.ca, Nicole Grisolia <ngriz@rogers.com>, dino.dascanio@bell.net

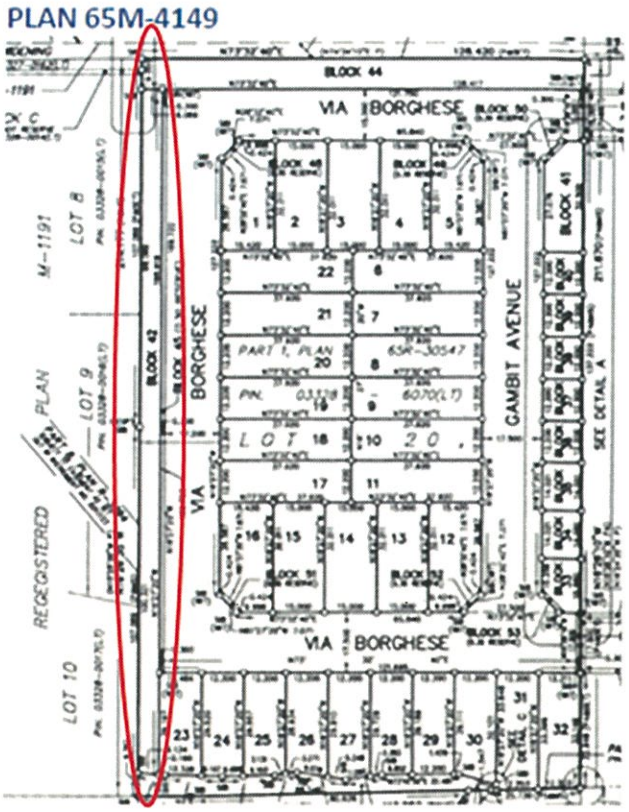
Good day,

Per the Feb 17th resident meeting arranged by Councilor De Francesca in relation to an existing development application which, is being addressed in addition to this request, there is the matter of what many residents believe, was the negligent removal of an entire woodlot. What's more, per schedule 2 of the Vaughan Official Plan, Volume 1, the subject lands fall within the Natural Heritage Network as a Core Feature. This was further substantiated by the Development Planning Department who provided the below image:

SCHEDULE 2 – NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK

The Natural Heritage Network Study has validated the importance of this area & has specifically identified this area as a Core Feature currently awaiting approval from the Ontario Municipal Board.

I have also learned that the City of Vaughan now owns the lands immediately to the east of the subject lands (highlighted below), legally described as Block 42. This is consistent with the language contained within chapter 3 of the Vaughan Official Plan Volume 1 where Council would seek public ownership of such lands to preserve the inherent value, ecological features, biodiveristy & connectivity of natural features in an area. This is relevant as the leveling of the woodlot in question has significantly impacted the environment benefits of the area where it previously served to complement the Natural Heritage Network.



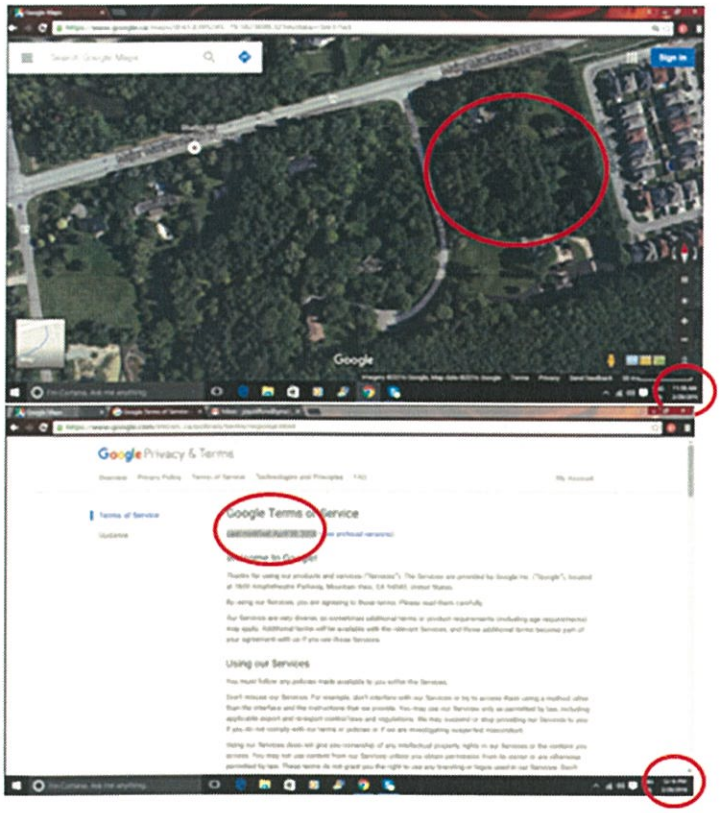
It was explained to many residents during the Feb 17th meeting at city hall, that Forestry Services did grant approval to remove some damaged trees caused by the 2013 ice storm. We were told this was validated by a "photo" that was provided by the owner. **I am formally requesting a copy of said photo(s) & would like to understand what due diligence was completed to validate the claim.** It was explained that the amount of damage caused by the storm placed a significant strain on city resources which, contributed to some lack of follow up. While I can certainly appreciate the extenuating circumstances, I believe there is a reasonable limit that should apply.

Living directly across from the subject lands, we immediately contacted the city for assistance when activity begain. **I would like an account of all related complaints as well as evidence of the city's response.** When the tree removal began, it was clear this would not be targeted to "damaged trees" considering the large

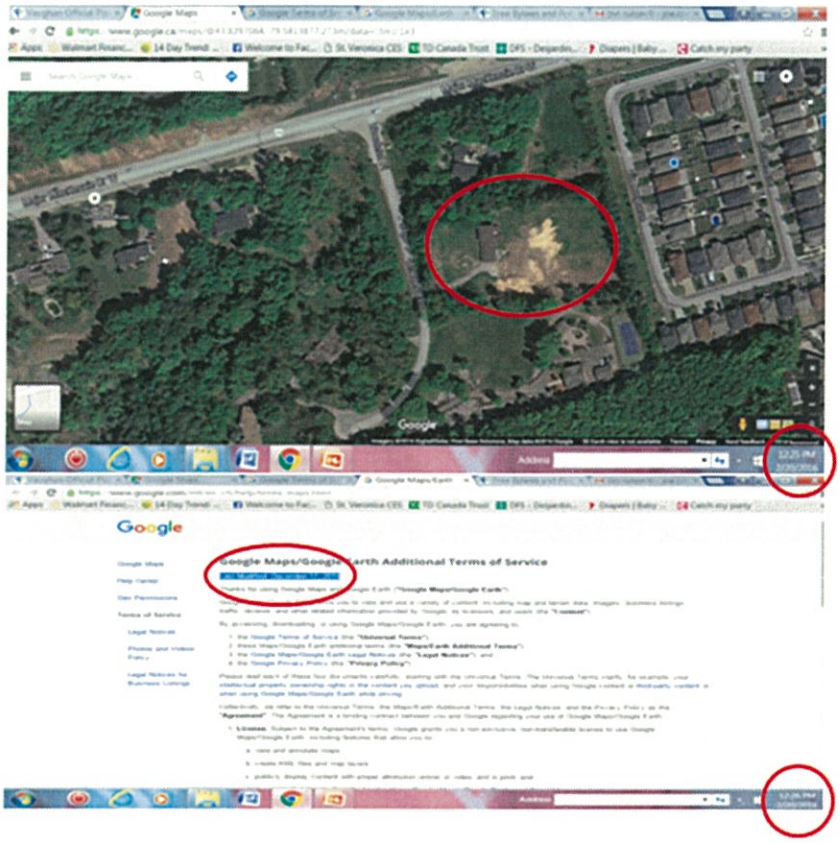
machinery that was being used to essentially flatten this area! When we did speak with the city, on several occasions, we were told the trees were damaged. This, despite our making the calls while standing directly in front of the subject lands & pleading for the city to come observe for themselves as the extent of the apparent "damage" was not nearly as extensive. We also witnessed a city by-law official finally attend the site, albeit very briefly, only to be told there is nothing we can do because the trees were already cut.

Per by-law 185-2007, this action was a direct violation. Further, per 3.2.3.9 of the Vaughan Official Plan Volume 1, what action has the city taken to enforce the restoration of said lands?

Finally, I will draw your attention to the subject lands & the woodlot in question. The first photo, according to Google Earths Terms of Service, was updated after April 30, 2014. I have provided screen shot to validate this information & when it was captured (i.e. today!). Per below, these trees appear to be thriving which, would directly contradict the supposed damage caused by the 2013 ice storm.



The second photo reveals the same area however, that has now been decimated! According to Google Maps Terms of Service, it was updated after Dec 17, 2015. I have provided screen shot to validate this information & when it was captured (i.e. today!).



I have been a resident of Vaughan for many years & care very much about the state of our city. The manner in which this incident has been & continues to be dealt with, is simply not consistent with what I know is a thoughtful & dedicated city. I have copied some residents who share my concerns (there are MANY others) along with members of council. I know, first hand, the quality of leadership we are privileged to have representing us & felt it was important to draw attention to this matter specifically as it related to the commitments made within the Vaughan Accord (included below). That said, considering the number of city officials present at the Feb 17 residents meeting that were unaware of these occurrences, I wanted to ensure we did our part as responsible residents to engage our leaders according.

I look forward to your prompt reply. Thank you.

The Vaughan Accord:

Accordingly, we commit to:

Ensure that our behaviour is at all times consistent with the City's core values of Respect, Accountability and Dedication;

Follow the Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council, and all City policies that apply to Members of Council;

Be responsible stewards of the City's finances, assets, services, public places, and the natural environment;

Provide stable, transparent and effective governance, focused on achieving excellence, and to set this standard for all City goals and objectives;

Act constructively, with mutual respect, and with respect for all persons who come before us;

Provide and promote, through effective communication, meaningful and inclusive citizen engagement;

Create conditions for an economic environment which promotes innovation, productivity enhancement and job creation;

Inspire cultural growth by promoting sports, the arts, music, theatre and architectural excellence;

Promote unity through diversity as a characteristic of Vaughan citizenship;

Remember our history and heritage by protecting and preserving important landmarks;

Exercise a leadership role beyond our borders by sharing our ideas, knowledge and experience widely; and

Strive to achieve the best possible quality of life and standard of living for Vaughan residents.

And that by signing this Accord, we the elected Members of Council pledge to keep this commitment, and to serve the City of Vaughan in a manner that will reflect a positive image of the City and instill civic pride.

Dated at Vaughan, Ontario, on this 20th day of January, 2015.