

C2.
Communication
CW(2) – September 17, 2024
Item No. 4

From: [Todd Coles](#)
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: Fw: [External] Block 41 - Response Required In order to Speak to Sept 17 Staff Report
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024 1:56:17 PM

Communication for CW2, Item #4.

Thanks,

Todd

Todd Coles, BES, MCIP, RPP
City Clerk
905-832-8585, ext. 8281 | todd.coles@vaughan.ca

City of Vaughan | Office of the City Clerk
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From: IRENE FORD [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Todd Coles <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Block 41 - Response Required In order to Speak to Sept 17 Staff Report

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Explain how ROPA 7 was endorsed by Vaughan Council?
Was ROPA7 approved by the Minister?
Are staff applying the policies of ROPA7 or the policies of YROP upon initial approval to facilitate active parkland?

I remember this meeting well in June of 2021. The recommendations of the CofW were not ratified by Council, it was Council's intent only to receive the staff report not to endorse any recommendations. So I can't understand why the CofW recommendations stand. I probably will need to see the video on this one. I think that the suggestion is that all recommendations from CofW stand, but that is not what Council made it sound like at all. Isn't it only the below recommendations stand that the amendment?

Council Minutes.

<https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=79631>

MOVED by Regional Councillor Jackson
seconded by Councillor DeFrancesca

THAT Item 9, Committee of the Whole Report No. 32 be adopted and amended, as follows:

By receiving the report of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management, dated June 8, 2021; and

By receiving the following communications:

- C6. Kim Empringham, York Region Federation of Agriculture, dated June 8, 2021;
- C31. David R. Donnelly, Donnelly Law, Carlaw Avenue, Toronto, dated June 8, and June 18, 2021;
- C44. Andre Willi, Strategic Benefits, Steeles Avenue West, Vaughan, dated June 19, 2021;
- C45. Angela Grella, dated June 20, 2021;
- C46. David Toyne, Upper Cold Creek Farm, Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge, dated June 21, 2021;
- C47. Louisa Santoro, dated June 21, 2021;
- C54. Irene Ford, dated June 21, 2021;
- C57. Jean-François Obregón, Laurel Valley Court, Concord, dated June 21, 2021;
- C60. Frank Troina, Kilmuir Gate, Woodbridge, dated June 21, 2021; and
- C61. Mary and Ferdinando Torrieri, Kilmuir Gate, Woodbridge, dated June 21, 2021.

CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Minutes

<https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=79631>

9. RESPONSE TO YORK REGION'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT 7

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) Whereas the Greenbelt lands in Blocks 27 and 41 are designated Agriculture within the York Region Official Plan are planned to be surrounded by urban uses, compromising their ability to be used for farming and other agricultural uses;**

Whereas the Region of York has requested comments on ROPA 7, which would redesignate these lands within Blocks 27 and 41 from Agriculture to Rural in its Official Plan;

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan permits and promotes recreational uses within its Protected Countryside designation;

Whereas the City wants Greenbelt lands within Blocks 27 and 41 to be used for parks, active recreation, passive recreation and infrastructure in accordance with the Greenbelt plan;

and whereas the City does not support the use of lands within Blocks 27 and 41 for uses such as schools, fire halls, cemeteries and places of worship within rural areas in the Greenbelt Plan;

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved that the Council of the City of Vaughan supports the redesignation of Greenbelt lands from Agriculture to Rural as proposed by ROPA 7 and further direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Regional Municipality of York;

- 2) That the report of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management, dated June 8, 2021, be received;**
- 3) That the following comments and Communications be received:**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) Whereas the Greenbelt lands in Blocks 27 and 41 are designated Agriculture within the York Region Official Plan are planned to be surrounded by urban uses, compromising their ability to be used for farming and other agricultural uses;**

Whereas the Region of York has requested comments on ROPA 7, which would redesignate these lands within Blocks 27 and 41 from Agriculture to Rural in its Official Plan;

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan permits and promotes recreational uses within its Protected Countryside designation;

Whereas the City wants Greenbelt lands within Blocks 27 and 41 to be used for parks, active recreation, passive recreation and infrastructure in accordance with the Greenbelt plan;

and whereas the City does not support the use of lands within Blocks 27 and 41 for uses such as schools, fire halls, cemeteries and places of worship within rural areas in the Greenbelt Plan;

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved that the Council of the City of Vaughan supports the redesignation of Greenbelt lands from Agriculture to Rural as proposed by ROPA 7 and further direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Regional Municipality of York;

Even if Council endorsed ROPA7 it doesn't mean that ROPA7 applies. The Block 41 staff report seems to suggest that the policies of ROPA 7 apply and they do not. Unless staff can explain when and how they were formally adopted by the Minister. I will need evidence and legislative authority etc. Unfortunately, the legislation is such a mess it is open to erroneous interpretations at this point. If the landowner somehow got ROPA 7 approved the public deserves to know when, how and by who. If the Minister did not approve ROPA7 and staff are proceeded to allow the Block Plan proceed in the absence of approval of these very, very controversial policies this requires investigation.

Upon approval of York Region's Official Plan there were changes adopted that reflected more direct wording in ROPA 7 but these changes were not kept upon the enactment of Bills 150 and 162. The Mapping remains as per Map 1c and the policies are as set out in Sections 3.2.5, 5.3.5 and 5.3.6. There is a paragraph in the staff report that suggest ROPA7 was 'amended' and applied to YROP, 2010 and I am not aware of this happening at any point in time.

This is a big deal and precedent setting so the decision path and authority are critical. There should be no room for interpretation to protect all parties involved. The suggestion here is that Vaughan Council endorsed active parkland and I don't think they did. Further the Minister to my knowledge has not permitted active parkland.

Response
Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 7 (“ROPA 7”) was endorsed by Vaughan Council in June of 2021 to modify policy and mapping of the YROP within Blocks 27 and 41, from “Agricultural” to “Rural”, to permit active parkland and recreational uses on lands located within the Greenbelt Plan Area. YROP 2022 integrates the mapping change intended as per ROPA 7, therefore the proposed park and stormwater management facilities that are proposed within the Greenbelt Area, are in accordance with the mapping and policies of YROP 2022 and the Greenbelt Plan.

Was ROPA7 approved and applied to YROP 2010 Official Plan?

Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 7 (“ROPA 7”) amended mapping and policies of the YROP 2010 to redesignate Greenbelt areas within Block 41 from “Agricultural” to “Rural”, to permit active parkland and recreational uses on lands located within the Greenbelt Plan Area. As identified in the YROP 2022 section above, the Block Plan is consistent with the amendments made through ROPA 7 as the LOG proposes to locate

parks/recreational uses within the Greenbelt Plan Area, on lands that were designated “Rural” by ROPA 7.

York Region Official Plan has been updated

The 2022 *York Regional Official Plan* is now updated to reflect November 2022 [modifications](#) by the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The update also reflects changes from Provincial [Bill 150](#) in December 2023 and [Bill 162](#) in February 2024 to reverse some of those modifications.

This is from Section 3.2.5.

- ii. authorized through an *Environmental Assessment*;
- e. *Urban agriculture*, recreational and parkland uses on rural lands within the linear river valleys identified in policy 5.3.5, which may include serviced playing field and golf courses. The location, range and types of parkland and recreational uses permitted will be determined by the local municipality through its official plan and/or *secondary plans*.

5.3.5 That rural lands within the linear river valleys of the Greenbelt Protected Countryside shown on *Map 1C*, that are surrounded by the urbanizing *Designated Greenfield Areas* of Vaughan and Markham, per *Map 1B*, shall be identified in local official plans and protected for natural heritage restoration and *urban agriculture*.

5.3.6 That, notwithstanding policy 5.3.2, permitted uses within the rural lands identified in policy 5.3.5 are limited to the following:

- a. *Passive recreation*;
- b. Environmental management, restoration, and enhancement;
- c. Compatible urban *agricultural uses*; and
- d. Recreational and parklands uses in accordance with the Greenbelt Plan and local municipal *secondary plans* on the basis of appropriate technical studies and natural systems planning.

Passive Recreational Uses

Outdoor recreational uses, such as non-motorized trails, that have minimal environmental impact and contribute to health and a high-quality of life for residents and workers.

I will leave my comments about Greenbelt conformity above and beyond for next week.

Thank you,
Irene