



Committee of the Whole

Feb 7th 2022

Item #10

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MUNICIPAL FINAL AUTHORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The Vellore Woods Ratepayer's Association's Executive Committee has unanimously voted in favour of supporting **Item #10 "Member's Resolution supporting municipal final authority for development planning."**

On November 9th 2021, our Chair Elvira Caria spoke against an item during COW in regards to an ongoing application that was before the Ontario Land Tribunal, where staff recommended that the Ontario Land Tribunal be advised that City of Vaughan Council ENDORSE a slew of amendments including Official Plan Amendments, Zoning Amendments, and mapping changes to delete the Subject Lands from an actual Designated District Centre which would NEVER have allowed this application to move forward.

After voicing our strong opposition on the matter, Mayor Bevilacqua stated that (paraphrasing) "The City are simply children of the Province, and that we (residents/ ratepayers) should really be taking our concerns and voice to the Province, and that we should evolve!"

Well here we are! The challenge has been accepted. We are doing our part, now it's time you do yours!

To keep with Mayor Bevilacqua's metaphor, it's time that you **kids** (Council) grow up and fly the coop, and break away from the Province and the gross failure of the OLT, and all its previous renditions!

In order to succeed and move our beautiful City forward, WE must all have a voice. And the voice that is NEVER heard at the OLT is that of its Citizens. The people who in fact, live in the communities, and are expected to thrive in the communities once everyone is gone!

So, if PEOPLE are the most important part of building neighbourhoods, why then, are we negated from being heard?

Since Council is OUR IMMEDIATE and direct voice, we are in fact, asking YOU to stand by us, listen to your residents and MOVE THIS RESOLUTION forward! We need to send a clear and loud message to the Province, that as it stands, the OLT is lacking one of the most fundamental aspects of Planning a community: **THE VOICE OF ITS PEOPLE.**

We want to be clear, we have been a strong and dedicated Ratepayer's Association working for our community for over 20+ years. We have built profound mutual respect for each other and have had enormous success with Developers who have ALWAYS worked WITH us (SmartCentres, TACC, ZZen Group, Arista Homes, Dr Goodfellows, etc to name a few) and as a result, we've created developments that make all of us proud. And they continue to work with us and meet with us BEFORE ever submitting applications to the City.



But this is **NOT** the case for several years now. The “nouveau” land owners turned developers have expressed **ZERO** desire to work with residents, and in many cases, even Planning Staff, instead opting to head directly to the OLT where they have told us blatantly “we’ll take our chances there, we know we’ll win.”

The system is grossly flawed! When it allows you to bypass an entire community and head to the OLT – there is a problem –a HUGE problem. And as was in the case of the November 9th Application we refer to above, the developer **IGNORED** repeated recommendations by Council to meet with us to come to a mutually agreeable and amicable plan. That never happened.

AND, in the eyes of the developer, it **DIDN’T HAVE TO** happen, because in the end they opted to head to OLT where they will likely get rubber stamped.

And that Ladies and Gentlemen, is a problem.

What is the point of an Official Plan? Why spend thousands and thousands of dollars on consultations and waste people’s time every few years for it to become an “antiquated and ignored” document?

Why are we allowing OPA’s to take place when, the Region has approved the Official Plan, and The Province has also approved it (and then sending it back to a Provincial body (OLT) just so it can **IGNORE** what it approved to begin with?)

Why do we even bother to have **Municipal Government**, if your “hands are tied?”

UNTIE THEM –AND TAKE BACK YOUR CITY –and stand by your Official Plan and WITH your residents!

Thank You

Vellore Woods Ratepayer’s Association