

Rural Burlington Greenbelt Coalition

Delegation to May 5 2014 Development and Infrastructure Committee

Chair Lancaster and Committee members,

The Rural Burlington Greenbelt Committee, speaking on behalf of our constituent members (BurlingtonGreen, CONE, LARA, Milton Green, Nemo 7G and PERL) would like to offer the following comments regarding Report PB 38-14 “Official Plan Review: Mount Nemo Public Consultation and Next Steps”.

We clearly are committed to preserving the unique and wonderful character and natural features of the north Burlington/Mount Nemo Plateau area. It is a key benefit of living in Burlington and the surrounding area and we need to take every step necessary to preserve its benefits for ourselves and our future generations.

As such we welcome and endorse the recommendations in the above report.

However, we do have some concerns for the Heritage Conservation District Study process for the Mount Nemo Plateau:

Public acceptance of and support for the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) throughout Burlington is critical to it being adopted. Accordingly:

1. The benefits of the HCD in protecting the Escarpment must be made clear. Unfortunately, there is no definitive outline of exactly how the HCD would strengthen protection of the Escarpment in PB 38-14, so going forward we recommend they be made clear and emphasized.
2. We agree with the Report’s issue that the level of support should be citywide. The north Burlington area is important to everyone in Burlington and we recommend that strong communication to all Burlington residents in addition to those in the Mount Nemo Plateau be implemented.
3. Residents’ concerns seem to be around the impact of new and/or additional regulations and approval processes. Although the process cannot be defined at this time, we suggest that minimum interferences with current residents land and buildings be a “guiding principle” for the HCD.
4. Appendix D, Part 4 C outlines a Steering Committee to initiate Phase I and develop a detailed work plan and specific data requirements and meet to:
 - a. Review the results of the initial research and analysis tasks

- b. Review the draft Heritage Conservation District Study
- c. Discuss the recommendation and presentation to Council

The RBGC suggests the inclusion of citizens in the steering committee or the review /discussion process could save time and discussion at a later stage and make the development process more transparent and we ask that this addition be considered by staff and council.

Our other concern is that the report indicates that it is not the intent to restrict normal farm practice. This should be changed to say that the intent would be to STRENGTHEN normal farm practice.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Monte Dennis
Co-Chair, RBGC