

Main Identity

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Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 10:07 AM
Attach: WATMP_EA_Natural_Environment_Report_Jan_2009_Reduced.pdf
Subject: Re: Hamilton Staff misleads Public and Councillors on Greenbelt Study
 To all City Councillors and Mayor of Hamilton.

Earlier this month I sent you the email below advising that the City staff have mislead you on their recommendations for changes to the Greenbelt Area. I have not received any reply back to my specific requests.

However, in your December 9th council meeting you directed staff to advise adjacent property owners of their report recommendations.

I have now received the City letter officially advising of their recommendations. However, the letter is still misleading telling us, the city council and the provincial ministry, that their recommendations are based on public input.

Their specific recommendation for removing area from the Greenbelt in Waterdown, namely the area east of Centre Road, south of the Waterdown Bypass, was not discussed with the public, therefore the report is still MISLEADING because there was no public feedback on this specific recommendation.

Furthermore, no where in the Staff (and detailed Dillon consulting report), have they advise you that part of this area they are recommending to remove from the Greenbelt is designated as Provincially Significant Wetlands by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Attached is the 2009 Environmental Assessment report done for the Waterdown bypass (ironically also done by Dillon consulting) that includes detailed information on this area that they want to remove from the Greenbelt. It clearly states

(page 14) that this specific area has Provincially Significant Wetland status, (and extensive additional information on everything else environmentally significant about the area including its forestry, vegetation, bird migration ...) that was not even mentioned in their report.

I would like to believe council cares about the accuracy of their staff's recommendations of this report, and would direct Staff to change their recommendation before it is sent to the ministry.

If this is no longer possible, I ask for the specific contact names and addresses at the Ministry who this report is being sent to, so we can independently advise them of the misrepresentation of this city report.

Thank you

Rick Breznik

----- Original Message -----

From: Rick Breznik

To: [Partridge, Judi](#) ; [Ward 14](#) ; [ward 13](#) ; [Ward 12](#) ; [Ward 11](#) ; [Ward 10](#) ; [Ward 9](#) ; [Ward 8](#) ; [Ward 6](#) ; [Ward 5](#) ; [Ward 4](#) ; [ward 3](#) ; [Ward 2](#) ; [Ward 1](#) ; [Mayor](#)

Cc: [Peter Victor](#) ; [greenbelt review MAH](#) ; [Environment Hamilton](#) ; [Teresa DiFalco](#) ; [Steve Oliver](#) ; [Slater, Carl \(ENE\)](#) ; [Randolph, Clinton \(ENE\)](#) ; [Murray, Chris](#) ; [minister.moe@ontario.ca](#) ;

[Julie Martin](#) ; [Harrison2, Michael \(ENE\)](#) ; [Gary Deathe](#) ; [Dreschel, Andrew](#) ; [Boysen, Barb \(MNR\)](#) ; [Al Seferiades](#) ; [CATCH](#) ; [ted mcmeekin](#) ; [greenbelt mah](#) ; [review](#)

Sent: Saturday, December 05, 2015 12:37 PM

Subject: Hamilton Staff misleads Public and Councillors on Greenbelt Study

To all City Councillors and Mayor of Hamilton.

In September, the City of Hamilton's staff held 4 open houses for the public to present their recommendations to REMOVE greenbelt designations from 3 areas within Hamilton. These meetings allowed staff to gathered public feedback on these 3 recommended areas.

Staff's final report last week added a 4th area for REMOVAL from the Greenbelt: - 70 acres in Waterdown, south of the new Bypass.

Buried in the Staffs report appendixes, the Dillon report acknowledges that the public was not consulted about this recommendation. Therefore the recommendations to Council DO NOT CONTAIN ANY PUBLIC INPUT ON THIS REMOVAL RECOMMENDATION.. (Since the Stakeholders input (i.e. - Hamilton Conservation) was done in July, they too have probably not had any input into this recommendation either.)

When the staff were questioned about this new addition to their recommendations, their reason was: - "Minor revisions".

However, the staff's Final Report to Council is purposely written to give the impression to the Councillors and the public (and eventually to the Provincial government reviewing the recommendations) that this 4th area was presented and discussed with the public in these open houses.

They state in their recommendations: *"That the public Consultation Summary report, prepared by Dillon Consulting summarizing the comments received from the City-hosted consultation events on the Greenbelt Boundary Review and attached Appendix "A", be received and forwarded to the Province to be considered as additional citizen input on the Coordinated Provincial Plan review.*

Councillor Brenda Johnson has already (rightly) criticized staff for only sending notices to owners whose land was being eyed for Greenbelt inclusion, but not notifying those affected by the properties being recommended for exclusion.

I, along with my neighbours in Waterdown, who back onto the existing Greenbelt and the associated ESA Wetlands in this area, are affected by this last minute recommendation.

We need clarification on Councillor Partridges statement to the Hamilton Spectator that a decision to not take this area out of the Greenbelt would decide if the developers or Taxpayers pay for part of the \$48 million dollar project for the bypass.

We were misled many years ago when the city told the public that the new bypass would be paid for by Developers. We have all since learned this is not true. (Developers pay standard fees based on their development project (houses) that go into a BIG Hamilton pot of money. The City then budgets project around the whole city out of this pot. However, it still ends up with most new road costs only being covered 85% from this pot and general residential tax revenue paying the other 15%.)

Why does this change to the area designation, changes who pays for the bypass?

We need clarification if the recommended 4th area for REMOVAL from the Greenbelt is simply bending to developers request for further urban expansions, which defeats the whole purpose of the Greenbelt to begin with.

We request the City to REJECT the staff's recommendation for the removal of the 70 acres in Waterdown from the Greenbelt, until those who are affected can be made fully aware of the changes / future implications. Any future staff recommendations should include the review and consideration of our comments.

Rick Breznik