

21 March 2011

Regional Chair B. Fisch and
Members of Council

Attention: Dennis Kelly, Regional Clerk

**Re: Transportation Services Committee Report
 Forest Conservation By-law Special Permit Application
 Beacon Hall Golf Course
 Town of Aurora**

We are the registered owners of a property of approximately one hectare at 12 Woodsend Crescent in Aurora. Our lot shares a common boundary of approximately 200 meters with Beacon Hall Golf Course and our home is located approximately 10 metres from this border.

On March 2, 2011 we spoke to the Transportation Services Committee with respect to the report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services in regard to Forest Conservation By-law Special Permit Application of Beacon Hall Golf Course. We had requested that the Committee adjourn its decision to the next meeting because we did not have sufficient time to review all of the issues involved. Although the Staff Report was supposed to be posted on Friday, February 25, 2011, it was not made available to the public until Monday, February 28, 2011 and the meeting was held two days later, on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Since the Committee Meeting on March 2, additional information has come to our attention. In particular, the re-grassing of the greens at Beacon Hall Golf Course is a project that was recently presented to the membership for their approval. It is our understanding that the membership did not approve the re-grassing project. In large part, the purpose of cutting trees was to ensure that sufficient sunlight reached newly-grassed greens. However, if there are no plans to re-grass, why is it necessary to destroy healthy, mature trees?

It has also come to our attention that the Beacon Hall Golf Course membership has not voted on the proposed tree removal. If our information is correct and the membership indeed was not consulted, we respectfully request Council to adjourn this matter *sine die*, so that Council can be completely satisfied that the irreversible removal of so many mature trees in the Oak Ridges Moraine is indeed the wish of the golf club membership and that the concerns of property owners in the vicinity of the proposed tree removal have been taken into consideration.

We have also heard that Beacon Hall has recently postponed the tree removal project but plans to continue with the permit process. We question why a permit should be issued, if there are no immediate plans to remove trees.

We would also like to re-iterate our overall concerns with the proposed tree removal:

Beacon Hall Golf Course
Forest Conservation By-law
Special Permit Application

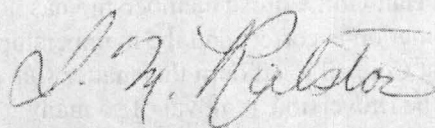
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- Necessity of tree removal if the project to re-grass the golf greens is not moving forward.
- Continued incremental destruction of mature trees on the golf course over the last 20 years.
- Adverse impact on the value of properties abutting the golf course.
- Adverse impact on the ecology of the area (e.g. drainage).
- Validity of shade study and validity of designation of trees for removal.
- Proposed re-planting of shrubs and saplings does not compensate for removal of mature, large trees.
- Impact on view and overall enjoyment of the forest.
- Assurance that all neighbours in the vicinity of tree removal have been appropriately notified and that their concerns have been taken into consideration.
- Assurance that the golf club membership is in support of tree removal.
- Assurance that there is an appropriate rationale for both the need to remove trees and the timing of tree removal.
- Outstanding questions regarding the Staff Report.

The import of the Staff Report which recommends the removal of 108 trees (many are between 50 and 150 years old), goes beyond our personal interest. The integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine and its preservation plan is a matter of broad public concern and we feel that the Region should act very diligently and carefully in discharging its duties in this sensitive environmental area.

By a copy of this letter to Beacon Hall Golf Course we bring this request to their attention.

Respectfully submitted,



Isobel M. Ralston and Jan Oudenes
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