

TOWNSHIP OF GUELPH / ERAMOSA PLANNING REPORT

Prepared by MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited MHBC File 9902IZ Report Date January 28, 2016

Application: Zoning By-law Amendment Application

File No. ZBA 01/14

Location: 6939 Wellington Road 124

Part Lots 14-16 and Lots 17 & 18, Concession B, (Former Township of Eramosa),

Township of Guelph Eramosa, County of Wellington

Council date: February 1, 2016

Attachments: 1. Aerial Photo

2. Operational Plan, Phase A, prepared by Harrington McAvan, dated December 23, 2016

TOTAL PAGES: 10

SUMMARY

The Township of Guelph/Eramosa received a Zoning By-law Amendment application from Harrington McAvan Ltd to amend the Township's Comprehensive Zoning By-law 57/1999 to rezone 6939 Wellington Road 124 (the "subject lands") from Agricultural (A) to Extractive Industrial (M3) in order to permit an above the water table pit. The Township deemed the application complete on April 17, 2014. An Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) application for a new pit licence has also been filed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the processing of the application to date and recommend that Council schedule the Statutory Public Meeting, required by Section 34(12) of the *Planning Act*, to consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application. A subsequent report containing an evaluation of the application in accordance with the Provincial Policy Statement (2014), the County of Wellington Official Plan, and the Township of Guelph/Eramosa Zoning By-law 57/99 will be provided to Council for the public meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

• The Township of Guelph/Eramosa conduct a public meeting pursuant to the *Planning Act* to consider the request to amend the Township of Guelph/Eramosa Zoning By-law

Dan Turnie

Submitted by:

Emily Elliott, BES, MCIP, RPP Dan Currie, MA, MCIP, RPP

SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSAL

The subject lands comprise an area of 51.16 hectares (126.4 acres) and are located on the south side of Wellington Road 124 and north of the existing Canadian National Railway line (Attachment 1 – Aerial Photo). The subject lands are located in an area predominantly comprised of agricultural uses, with some non-farm residences and commercial uses along Wellington Road 124. Adjacent to the subject lands to the south is an inactive quarry, licenced to Carmeuse Lime (Canada). This inactive quarry contains two large ponds in the area where extraction previously occurred. South of the Carmeuse quarry is the Speed River. The subject lands are located at the southwesterly limit of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa. To the east of the subject lands, on the west side of Highway 24 (Hespeler Road) is the City of Cambridge (Region of Waterloo). To the south of the subject lands is the Township of Puslinch.

The majority of subject lands are presently used for agricultural (cash-crops) purposes and the southern portion features a 6.03 hectare (14.9 acre) wooded area. A house, three barns and two sheds are located at the eastern portion of the subject lands, outside of the proposed limit of extraction. These buildings are proposed to be retained. A house and a storage trailer are located on the northern portion of the subject lands adjacent to Wellington Road 124 and within the proposed area of extraction. The house and storage trailer adjacent to Wellington Road 124 are proposed to be demolished or vacated prior to extraction. A high voltage transmission corridor bisects the subject lands. This corridor is proposed to be retained.

The subject lands are designated *Prime Agricultural* by the County of Wellington Official Plan (the "Official Plan") and are subject to a Mineral Aggregate Resource Overlay by Schedule C of the Official Plan. Schedule C identifies "Sand and Gravel Resources of Primary and Secondary Significance" on the subject lands. Aggregate extraction and associated uses are permitted on lands designated Prime Agricultural within the Mineral Aggregate Resource Overlay, subject to rezoning.

The proposed area to be extracted is 36.85 hectares (91.06 acres). It is proposed that the area of extraction may be increased to 42.45 hectares (104.9 acres) if the conditional limit of extraction is included. The conditional limit of extraction includes the woodlot on the southern portion of the subject lands. This woodlot has been determined to contain habitat for the Little Brown Myotis (Little Brown Bat). The Little Brown Bat is classified as an engendered species and is therefore afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). The conditional limit of extraction is subject to the issuance of authorization under the ESA permitting the removal of the woodlot, or demonstration, to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry ("MNRF") that the woodland no longer represents protected habitat for the Little Brown Bat. A site plan amendment under the ARA may be required to reflect the conditions of the ESA authorization, if necessary.

The proposed pit includes extraction above the water table at a rate of up to 650,000 tonnes of aggregate material annually. No extraction will occur within 1.5 metres of the established groundwater table. Extraction is planned to occur in five phases with a total of 2.0 million tonnes aggregate expected to be extracted. No blasting or dewatering is proposed.

Following extraction, each phase will be progressively rehabilitated back to agriculture using overburden and topsoil from previous phases. Under the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014, the applicant is required to demonstrate that substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture will be restored. Slopes (minimum 3:1) are to be rehabilitated by backfilling or the cut-fill method using overburden and topsoil from within the site. Additional topsoil may be imported for enhanced rehabilitation. Any imported fill must satisfy Ministry of Environment Regulations.

A temporary aggregate processing plant is proposed during extraction in Area 1 (this plant will be used to crush and wash aggregate), as shown on the Operational Plan, Phase A (Attachment 2). The plant will be established on the pit floor during the second operational phase. Off-site materials (topsoil, aggregate, manure, organic peat) may be imported into the site for blending and custom products. There may be recycling of material (asphalt and concrete) on the site. Additional materials (brick, clay, glass and ceramic) may be imported for recycling and will be stored in stockpiles within the plant area. Recycling will not continue after extraction has ceased. Wash ponds, scrap storage and recycling will be located within the plant site. All plant materials and equipment will be removed upon completion of extraction.

The proposed hours of operation for the aggregate extraction operation are as follows:

- Site Preparation and Rehabilitation 7:00 am 7:00 pm weekdays
- Excavation and Processing 7:00 am 7:00 pm weekdays; 7:00 am 6:00 pm Saturdays
- Shipping 6:00 am 7:00 pm weekdays; 6:00 am 6:00 pm Saturdays

On occasion nighttime deliveries may be required for special public construction projects. Nighttime deliveries require municipal notification and approval. No other work (crushing, screening and extraction) is permitted during night time hours.

Vehicular access to the proposed pit will be directly from Wellington Road 124 opposite Kossuth Road at its intersection with Wellington Road 124. The new site access will be aligned with the existing intersection and will create a new four-legged intersection. Several improvements to the intersection are planned to accommodate the new pit entrance, including: a southbound left turn lane, a northbound right turn taper lane and traffic signal infrastructure.

Berm construction is proposed along Wellington Road 124 in order to mitigate visual and noise impacts. Berms will be constructed in sections depending on the location of operations. All berms are proposed to be 4.0 metres above-grade.

The following plans (collectively referred to as the "Site Plans") were filed in support of the Zoning By-law Amendment application:

- Existing Features Plan, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, revised December 23, 2015
- Operational Plan Phase A, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, revised December 23, 2015
- Operational Plan Phases B-E, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, revised December 23, 2015

- Section and Details, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, revised December 23, 2015
- Rehabilitation Plan, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, revised December 23, 2015

The following reports and documents were filed in support of the zoning by-law amendment application:

- Application Form
- Summary Report, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, dated April 2014.
- Hydrogeological Level 1 Assessment, prepared by Groundwater Science Corp., dated February 2014.
- Natural Environment Level 1 and 2 Technical Report, prepared by Stantec Consulting Ltd., dated February 25, 2014.
- Archaeological Assessment, Stage 1-2, prepared by Stantec Consulting Limited, dated May 28, 2014
- Acoustic Assessment Report, prepared by Consetoga-Rovers & Associates, dated February 2014, revised April 2014.
- Traffic Impact Assessment, prepared by GHD, dated April 2014.
- Planning Analysis Report, prepared by Harrington McAvan Ltd, dated February 2014.
- Resource Assessment, prepared by Applicant and Harrington McAvan Ltd.
- Correspondence Review, including all agency comments and response letters, compiled by Harrington McAvan Ltd., dated December 23, 2015
- Response to Burnside Peer Review, compiled by Harrington McAvan Ltd., dated January 18, 2016

RELATED APPLICATION

Concurrent with the Zoning By-law Amendment application, Tri City Lands Ltd., has filed an application with the MNRF pursuant to the *Aggregate Resources Act* ("ARA"), for a new pit licence. The purpose of this application is for a Category 3 – Class A Licence to permit a pit above water with a proposed maximum annual tonnage of 650,000. The application has been deemed complete by the MNRF. The 45-day public consultation process required by the ARA occurred between May 20, 2014 and July 4, 2014. This process included an ARA required public information session on June 11, 2014.

Currently, the zoning of the subject lands does not permit the establishment of a new aggregate extraction operation. Accordingly, the Township filed a formal objection to the ARA application with the MNRF on June 18, 2014. The Township objected to the approval of the aggregate licence until the municipal planning process has concluded and the required approvals are in place. The County of Wellington filed an objection to the ARA application with the MNRF on June 12, 2014 for the same reason. The lands must be zoned to permit aggregate extraction before a licence can be issued by the MNRF.

A decision to approve the ARA licence application rests with the MNRF or the Ontario Municipal Board. If there are unresolved objections, the MNRF may refer the application to the Ontario Municipal Board for a hearing.

PROCESS TO DATE

The Zoning By-law Amendment application was received by the Township of Guelph/Eramosa on March 10, 2014. The application was deemed complete by the Township on April 17, 2014 and was subsequently circulated to applicable review agencies. Comments were requested by May 15, 2014.

As a result of comments from review agencies, revisions to the proposal were required. The applicant worked directly with each of the commenting agencies, including the County of Wellington, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Township of Puslinch, in an effort to resolve outstanding concerns. In addition the applicant worked directly with the MNRF to resolve issues related to the ARA application.

The applicant provided the Township with a revised Zoning By-law Amendment submission on January 12, 2016. This revised submission included correspondence and response letters with the following agencies: the County of Wellington, Hydro One, Puslinch Township, the City of Cambridge, the Six Nations of the Grand River, the Region of Waterloo, the Upper Grand District School Board, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Further, the applicant provided written response to the comments raised by the Township's engineering consultant, R. J. Burnside ("Burnside"), on January 18, 2016. This response was provided to Burnside for review that same day.

A planning report providing an analysis of the Zoning By-law Amendment application will be provided to Council for information for the public meeting. This report will include consideration of the applicable planning policy framework all agency comments received. There will not be a recommendation on the Zoning By-law Amendment application made at the public meeting.

Following the public meeting, full consideration of the zoning by-law amendment application can occur and a final report can be prepared for Council. This report will consider all public and agency comments and provide a recommendation to Council on the Zoning By-law Amendment application. This report will be presented to Council for decision at a Council meeting scheduled following the public meeting.

Table 1 summarizes the major application milestones and sets out upcoming target dates for the next steps for the processing of the application (target dates *italicized*). Future dates are tentative and set out for information purposes only. A more fulsome discussion of the next steps will follow.

TABLE 1. PROCESS TIMELINE			
Date	Event		
March 10, 2014	Application received by Township		
April 17, 2014	Application deemed complete by Township		
April 18, 2014	Application circulated to commenting agencies		
April 24, 2014	Revised application received by Township		

May, 2014	Related ARA application deemed complete by MNRF
May 20, 2014	45-day ARA public consultation process commences
June 11, 2014	ARA public information session
June 12, 2014	County files objection to ARA licence application
June 18, 2014	Township files objection to ARA licence application
July 4, 2014	ARA public consultation process concludes
January 12, 2016	Revised zoning by-law amendment submission received by Township
January 18, 2016	Applicant's response to Burnside comments received by Township
February 1, 2016	Recommendation to schedule public meeting considered by Council
March 7, 2016	Public Meeting (no decision on zoning by-law amendment application)
TBD	Recommendation on application considered by Council

COMMENTS RECEIVED

AGENCY COMMENTS

The zoning by-law amendment application was circulated to the required agencies for review and comments. A summary of the comments received to date is included in Table 2 below:

TABLE 2. AGENCY COMMENTS				
Agency	Comment Summary	Concerns Addressed		
Grand River	Impact on natural heritage features	No objection to the application		
Conservation Authority	Hydrogeological impacts	being taken forward for		
	Impact on on-site woodland	consideration		
	Impact on wildlife			
Upper Grand District School Board	No objections	N/A		
Region of Waterloo (Transportation Planning)	Region has no jurisdiction over proposed access	N/A		
Township of Puslinch	Impact on private wells	Comments adequately addressed		
	Accuracy of water table elevation	by revised site plan and		
	Potential impacts to ground water	supplemental information		
	Monitoring Program / Mitigation	provided		
County of Wellington	No comments	N/A		
(Emergency				
Management)				
County of Wellington	Entrance on county road	Comments pending		
(Planning &	Removal of woodlot			
Development)	Recycling operations			
	Rehabilitation to prime agriculture			
County of Wellington	Entrance location / design	No objection to entrance location		
(Roads Division)	Traffic on Wellington Road 124	in principal, additional		
	intersection with Kossuth Road	information regarding Traffic		
		Impact Study required prior to approval of entrance		
Township of	Technical site plan comments	Response from applicant provided		
Guelph/Eramosa	Hydrogeological concerns, including:	January 18, 2016. Comments		

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(Engineering	impact on water table/groundwater,	pending
Consultants – Burnside)	impact on private wells, monitoring	
	program, location of wash pond	
	Clarification regarding acoustic	
	assessment	
	Widening of Wellington Road 124	
	Sight line analysis for truck traffic	
	Impact on habitat/wildlife	
	Impact on species at risk/endangered	
	species	
Ministry of Tourism,	Ministry satisfied with archaeological	N/A
Culture and Sport	assessment.	
Ministry of Natural	Removal of woodlands	MNRF's outstanding concerns
Resources & Forestry*	Impact on Species at Risk and	have been addressed.
	Endangered Species	
	Impact on natural heritage features	
	Adequacy of mitigation measures	
	Groundwater monitoring	
Six Nations of the	Interest in development relating to	Applicant met with
Grand River*	land, water and resources	representatives on October 1,
	Interest in archaeological information	2014. No response received since
	_	meeting
Hydro One*	Access to transmission towers	Response from applicant
	Extraction surrounding towers (face	provided, November 26, 2015.
	of undisturbed area)	Comments pending

^{*}MNRF, Hydro One and Six Nations comments relate only to the ARA application

PUBLIC COMMENTS

As a result of the notice of complete application eight members of the public have submitted comments on the application. These comments have been filed with the Township Clerk. In addition, public consultation as required by the ARA was undertaken by the applicant. A public information session for the ARA was held on June 11, 2014. Approximately 30 members of the public attended.

The written comments and comments received by the public at the ARA required open house are summarized below:

- Impact on adjacent properties such as: decrease in property values, visual impact, noise impacts, dust impacts
- Agricultural impacts such as: loss of agricultural land and rehabilitation
- Air quality impacts related to extraction, truck traffic, plant operations, recycling operation
- Impact on water quality and water supply, including: impact on private wells, ground water, source water and the Speed River
- Environmental impacts, including impacts to: Speed River, species at risk, on-site woodlot, wildlife habitat
- Traffic impacts such as: increased congestion, increased truck/equipment traffic, increased accidents, impact on road safety

• Operational impacts such as: timeline for operations, need for extraction
The public will be provided with an additional opportunity to become aware of further details
on the proposal and comment on the Zoning By-law Amendment application through the
public meeting required by the *Planning Act*. Public comments provided through the process
will be considered prior to providing a recommendation to Council.

Following receipt of all agency comments, a planning analysis report will be prepared for Council's consideration. Given the number of technical issues raised through the processing of the application, all agency comments must be considered in formulating a planning opinion on the Zoning By-law Amendment application.

NEXT STEPS / RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the Township conduct a public meeting, pursuant to the *Planning Act* to consider the Zoning By-law Amendment application. This public meeting will allow Township Council and residents an opportunity to discuss the revised Zoning By-law Amendment application and express comments. A planning report providing an analysis of the Zoning By-law Amendment application will be provided to Council for information for the public meeting. There will not be a recommendation on the Zoning By-law Amendment application made at the public meeting.

Following the public meeting, full consideration of the zoning by-law amendment application can occur and a final report can be prepared for Council. This report will consider all public and agency comments and provide a recommendation to Council on the Zoning By-law Amendment application. This report will be presented to Council for decision at a Council meeting scheduled following the public meeting.



Attachment: 1 **Location Plan** **LEGEND**



Subject Lands

DATE: January 2016

FILE: 9902IZ

SCALE 1:10,000

DRAWN: nz





6939 Wellington Road 124 Township of Guelph Eramosa

Base Map Source: Google Earth 2016

