

The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton - Council Meeting
Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 7.1
Number: 20-27-
Title: Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Motion
Date: 12/08/2020

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Dean Leifso

Whereas the Province has introduced Bill 229, *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act*, and

Whereas the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications; and

Whereas conservation authorities protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the *Planning Act*; and

Whereas the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) watershed data and expertise and consistency with policies and guidelines; and

Whereas the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs; and

Whereas SVCA and municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place new budgets as well as agreements for non-mandatory programs; and

Whereas the appointment of municipal representatives on Conservation Authority Boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conservation Authority Board should be duly elected; and

Whereas the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a Conservation Authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed; and

Whereas conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative; and

Whereas changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities,

and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process; and

Whereas the province has made changes to the legislation that will limit the abilities of SVCA to ensure compliance with the Act and our policies by not including stop work orders and modifying powers to enter property potentially resulting in more legal action; and

Whereas all watershed residents and municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for their health and well-being as well as SVCA's work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards and to ensure safe drinking water;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Province of Ontario work with conservation authorities to address their concerns by repealing and/or amending changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act*; and

That the Province of Ontario provide a longer transition period up at least to December 2022 for non-mandatory programs to enable coordination of CA-municipal budget processes; and

That the province respects the current conservation authority - municipal relationships; and

Further that the province embraces their long-standing partnership with conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

Carried

Tied, Defeated

Defeated

Tabled

Mayor - Chris Peabody