

MEETING NO: # 08 20 Conservation Halton Board of Directors

MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 via Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Hamza Ansari
 Rob Burton
 Mike Cluett
 Rick Di Lorenzo
 Joanne Di Maio
 Cathy Duddeck
 Allan Elgar
 Steve Gilmour
 Dave Gittings
 Moya Johnson
 Gordon Krantz
 Bryan Lewis
 Marianne Meed Ward
 Rory Nisan
 Gerry Smallegange
 Jim Sweetlove
 Jean Williams

Absent: Zeeshan Hamid
 Zobia Jawed

Staff present Kim Barrett, Associate Director, Science & Partnerships
 Hassaan Basit, President & CEO/Secretary-Treasurer
 Garner Beckett, Director, CH Foundation
 Adriana Birza, Manager, Office of the President & CEO
 Stephanie Bright, Public Relations Specialist
 Niamh Buckley, Administrative Assistant, Office of the President & CEO
 Craig Machan, Associate Director, Park Operations
 Kellie McCormack, Associate Director, Planning & Regulations
 Plezzie Ramirez, Senior Manager, Human Resources
 Jill Ramseyer, Director, Corporate Compliance
 Katie Skillen, Associate Director, Marketing and Communications
 Barb Veale, Director, Planning & Watershed Management
 Mark Vytvytsky, Director, Parks and Operations, Executive Lead Digital Transformation
 Lawrence Wagner, Senior Director, Corporate Services

1. Roll Call

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest for Board of Directors

There were **NONE**.

3. Approval of Agenda

CHBD 08 01 Moved by: Cathy Duddeck
Seconded by: Jean Williams

THAT the agenda be **approved as distributed**.

Carried

4. Action Items

4.1 Proposed Amendments to the CA Act and Planning Act - Bill 229

CHBD 08 02 Moved by: Rob Burton
Seconded By: Moya Johnson

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

WHEREAS Bill 229 introduces changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities' participation in and support of local planning appeal processes and their ability to protect development from natural hazards;

WHEREAS conservation authorities protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development under the Conservation Authorities Act, ensuring compliance with the Regulations and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act;

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without consideration of local conditions, the Conservation Authority Board approved policies, watershed data and technical expertise;

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;

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

WHEREAS the appointment of municipal representatives on CA Boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the CA Board should be duly elected;

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

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already aligned approaches through Memorandums of Understanding with local watershed municipalities to reduce delays, avoid duplication and improve service delivery for all clients;

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and cause delays in the development approval process;

WHEREAS the province has made changes to the legislation that will limit the ability of CH 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;

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors direct the Chair of Conservation Halton Board of Directors to convey the concerns and recommendations outlined in this report through a letter to The Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Natural Resources and Forestry, and Municipal Affairs and Housing.

And

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors direct the CEO to provide a copy of this report and letter to all watershed municipalities, MPPs, MPs and other public sector stakeholders.

The CEO provided an outline to the key changes that are being put forward by the Province in Bill 229: Proposed CA Act Amendments and the implications of these changes.

The CEO along with CH Staff are asking the Board to approve the above-mentioned recommendations along with a letter to the Province in response to this Bill.

Additionally, CH will run an advocacy campaign to engage CH stakeholders, partners, and community.

Carried

5. Other Business

There was no **other business**

6. Adjournment

CHBD 08 03 Moved by: Cathy Duddeck

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors meeting **be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**

Carried

Signed:



Hassaan Basit, President & CEO/Secretary-Treasurer

Date:

November 26, 2020