

Highland Gate Proposal Appealed to Ontario Municipal Board

Aurora, November 17, 2015 – After nearly a year of consultation and four public meetings since announcing in December 2014 its intention to redevelop the former Highland Gate Golf Club lands, Highland Gate Developments Inc., (HGDI), is appealing its proposed development to the Ontario Municipal Board for a decision.

The details of the plan to turn the privately-owned land into a combination of publicly-accessible parkland and trails along with 184 upscale single family homes and a 10-storey condominium was announced on February 27, 2015 when the applications and technical submissions were filed with the Town .

Of the 101 acre site, over 48% was proposed to be preserved as open space – either as parks, trails or natural heritage areas for public use. As private property, it is inaccessible to the public.

Since last December, there have been three public meetings sponsored by the Town: on June 24th, September 30th and October 28th, well in excess of the one public meeting required by the Planning Act.

“Despite the fact that only one town-sponsored public meeting was required, we participated fully and in good faith in all three meetings that the town organized, and organized our own community information meeting in April” says HGDI spokesperson Cheryl Shindruk.

“The Town indicated at the conclusion of the October 28th public meeting that it would be scheduling another public meeting, sometime in 2016, so with no end in sight to the already lengthy consultation process we are exercising our right to appeal the development to the Ontario Municipal Board” Shindruk adds.

Consultation with the Highland Gate Rate Payers Association began in December, 2014, and over the past few months, HDGI has consulted and negotiated extensively on an individual basis with approximately 200 of the residents whose properties abut and infringe on the HDGI lands. Of the 190 properties infringing on HDGI lands, agreements were in process or in place for about 100 properties, but they now become null and void, as they were predicated on council approval of the applications..

The plan to redevelop the former Highland Gate golf course for residential and park and trail uses while preserving and protecting natural heritage areas is consistent with government policy, namely: The Provincial Policy Statement, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and the York Region Official Plan. The proposal has been green-lighted by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority subject to conditions of approval.

The Region of York has advised the Town that the proposed Official Plan Amendment needed to permit the development is a “routine matter of local significance” that “does not adversely affect Regional planning policies or interests”. Accordingly, the Region exempted the Official Plan Amendment application from approval by Regional Planning Committee and Council.

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