

From: Sridhar Reddy Methuku

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:33 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

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Subject: Correspondence for Nov 04 2020 Council meeting

I am Sridhar Methuku, residing at 257 Harris Ave, Richmond Hill.

This is in regards to City Files: D02-20017, D03-14008 and D03-16002. Please include this as correspondence for the Nov 04 2020 Council meeting and include me as speaker also.

With 159 (and many more in new application) houses across me and a storm water outlet into my property and no direct access to Beech avenue or Jefferson SDRD (only access is to Settlement crescent and Harris avenue), will not only severely impact enjoyment/quality of life for my family living here for so long, it will also severely impact my property value, my life savings.

Below I am giving a brief history of HB infill study and requesting the council to advise City staff to continue the work they are doing with the developer of this file, and also continue to engage with TRCA to address the feature being shown on my property. I wish staff was engaged in addressing my concerns like they are doing since the water contamination issue came up on the street, special Thanks to Director of Engineering Mr.Terzievski and Mr.Walters for understanding the history and continually engaging with developers and TRCA in addressing issues affecting my property.

Brief History of HB infill approval & MESP

1) In 2007, before I purchased my home I came to the City planning office with my realtor and confirmed with them that there is no landform conversation/top of the bank or any other kind of feature. The planner explained about the infill study that was initiated a few years back for HB, confirmed the water flow is a temporary drainage and if infill study goes through that will be handled. He explained that either I can have 3 lots facing Harris avenue or six 50 foot lots by putting a road between my and my neighbor. I was also told Harris avenue will stay dead-end street in both directions. I did not expect

that infill study will go through and even if it goes through, I thought with above due diligence I will be treated equally with other development on the street and made a decision to buy my home.

2) After the 2008 residents meeting, I was shocked to see the City's consultant putting the feature on my lot. I spoke with planning staff with whom I verified before and on advice of planner Bruce Robb, went to TRCA and met Lisa Stern. She explained there was a walk done on my property by TRCA in 2001 and she said there are no features on my lot and provided me a copy of the walk by TRCA via FOI request. I have shared this document with City staff. She said the lot can be fully re-developed. I provided the walk document to Bruce Robb and explained to him about my conversation with Lisa Stern. He spoke with her and told me now they want to preserve the landform conversation to complement the slope in the natural linkage section behind my property. I did some research about the natural linkage section and found out that the slope was not natural and was grading filled by the developer (Autumn Grove subdivision). I explained the history to Bruce Robb and asked if that was approved filling? That filling is one of the contributing factors to erosion on my property. I followed up numerous times but did not get an answer and then I was told MESP took care of the feature. After finding out we were misled about being included in MESP, I started following up with staff about the permits for filling in the natural linkage section. Finally after 13 years on August 10 2020, I found out via City staff that TRCA did not approve that filling, which is a two step process - City to issue a permit for that filling and TRCA needs to approve it. This proves that everything around me is filled without appropriate approvals which is a big contributing factor to "so called" feature on my lot and erosion. I don't even have a table land to put a new septic leach field as per code because of water draining into my lot as a result of these fillings around me. These properties are currently being rewarded for filling without approvals and I am being victimized for following the rules?

3) I along with other residents were told the south side of Harris Avenue was included in MESP. We were told the feature that was shown is lifted and I was congratulated by then Ward 4 Councillor Lynn Foster & Paul Bailey of Heathwood. I conveyed the same message to all the residents on the south side of Harris avenue. Our councillor Lynn Foster met me personally, congratulated me and gave a copy of MESP to show me the feature was removed, I still have that copy of MESP. Later we found out the feature was still on, but it was too late by then. Our Councillor Lynn Foster resigned, residents on the south side met newly appointed councillor David West and explained him the history and asked him to support us and involved in discussions of MESP & Infill study as recommended by council earlier but that was honored and HB Infill study was approved without addressing our concerns. Does Council/Staff/TRCA/LPAD think this is fair?

I met Paul Bailey of Heathwood the evening before the HB Infill study came to council for approval. He apologized and said they were not getting terms of reference, how on one hand the City told in front of us to include south side of Harris in MESP but on the other hand told them not to include us in MESP. Does Council & Staff think this is fair? We were kept in dark, misinformed and misled which prohibited us to take timely actions.

4) Landform conservation: The same top of the bank feature that is being shown on my property was there on subject lands of this application. It was shown in initial drawings submitted by City's consultant in 2008. South side of Harris backs on to the natural linkage section which was filled up into a steep slope by another developer and as I mentioned above, recently TRCA confirmed they did not approve that filling. The water flow due to that filling and all other fillings in the neighborhood is contributing to severe erosion on my lot. There is a top of the bank feature still on 301 Harris avenue which was recently approved for redevelopment and 229 Harris avenue which was considered for redevelopment by council on Oct 07, 2020 was land filled historically also.

From the council meeting of Oct 07, 2020, the planner of this subject land application and 229 Harris ave, Mr Evans, made a comment while talking about landform conservation on 229 Harris ave which restricted the development potential. Is he of the same opinion as me that the landform in the South side of Harris is not treated the same way as on North (Countrywide) and East (Heathwood)? Can Council and Staff clarify this with him?

Concerns and Changes I am requesting for this Application

1) Storm water outlet: As City staff is discussing with the applicant and determined it is design-wise feasible to direct out-flow of stormwater pond to east-end of Harris avenue. This should be considered as part of new design by application. Doing this will reduce one major contribution to the erosion on private lands including mine. I am afraid MESP did not consider the erosion factor of Stormwater pond in earlier design of the outlet nor the original pond location in the subject lands, which was filled up and which was one of the contributing reasons for change of drainage into my property and continuously cause erosion to this day. It's ironic that the stormwater pond did not go in that location since a natural pond was there previously.

2) Change the Semi-detached lots on the southwest corner of Harris and Beech to atleast 45' wide Detached lots in line of most recently approved application for 301 Harris avenue, which will be uniform with Silver Maple st on north of Jefferson SDRD and south on Wicker Dr.

3) Landscaping around the stormwater pond across my home and in general should be done in a way that will provide a privacy shield to the same level we had before the mature trees were cut down. This will also help replace all the mature trees that were removed from the subject lands.

4) Continue the new street shown (that connects into settlement crescent) further to Beech avenue instead of bringing it south to connect to Harris avenue. All the traffic has to come south, drive east and north again with this plan.

5) Reconsider connecting Beech and Wicker dr, which was in place in Autumn Grove approved subdivision design published by developers on the layout and buyers of that community were aware of this. City Staff recommended that the street has to go through, and now it has to be reconsidered again because of further intensification that

is being considered in this application. All the kids in the new neighborhood have to go to the school location South of Wicker Dr on Rolling Hill Dr. It saves the entire neighborhood from going through multiple streets that are already crowded during the busy time.

4) Increase the width of lots from 36 ft to 45 ft on the new proposed street on the west side of stormwater pond and make it a court location.

Thanks

Sridhar Methuku