



Concerned Citizens of King Township

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February 27, 2023

To: Mayor Pellegrini and Members of King Township Council,

**Re: C.O.W. Item 7.1. Report Number GMS-PL-2023-12
Proposed Process Enhancements and Changes in Response to Bill 23**

This written submission comes on behalf of CCKT.

Today CCKT represents approximately 150 member households and continues to take an active interest in a number of Township initiatives and projects. In addition to advocating for the long term protection and conservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt, CCKT also supports the preservation of significant cultural heritage structures in King Township and planning for vibrant, healthy, sustainable communities in our Settlement Areas.

First I'd like to thank Planning Staff for the comprehensive and well-organized report proposing enhancements and changes in response to Bill 23.

There are a number of recommendations and affirming comments in the staff report which CCKT supports:

— “that a third-party be utilized to undertake ecological and natural heritage peer-reviews when necessary, ...”

— Cultural heritage conservation is an important priority that will be addressed through providing more time for planning staff to review listed heritage properties and to engage the Heritage Advisory Committee in the process.

— Staff are committed to ensuring that all proposed Plans of Subdivision are subject to a Public Meeting.

— The Our King Official Plan permits up to two secondary residential units per lot, except within portions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area. CCKT supports this opportunity for “gentle density” in existing subdivisions providing the design and placement of additional residential units on lots respects the character of a neighbourhood, and doesn't result in the excessive removal of mature healthy trees on lots.

— “Township Staff are reviewing the Township’s draft Village Urban Design Guidelines in the context of Bill 23 to strengthen the Implementation Section of the document and to detail proposed amendments to the Zoning By-laws to address urban and architectural design.”

— “Township Staff are revising the draft expansion of the Sustainable King: Green Development Standards Program to align with Bill 23 and will consider the benefit of a By-law.”

Wetland Offsetting

While CCKT appreciates the pro-active action of staff to establish a wetland offset program in response to changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, we encourage the Township to do all that is possible to sustain the present-day wetlands found throughout King Township. Wetlands are an integral part of local eco-systems and are connected to many natural features. They support a great variety of inter-connected flora and fauna, sequester great amounts of carbon and are effective in mitigating both flood and drought events providing important services within King Township.

Ontario Nature reports that offsetting of wetlands for the most part is not a very successful practice. It can take many years to replicate a naturally occurring wetland and often with a net loss. We need to do all we can to preserve our wetlands in place.

Thank you for your consideration of the above comments.

Sincerely, Bruce Craig, on behalf of Concerned Citizens of King Township

cc. Stephen Naylor, Director of Growth Management Services
Kristen Harrison, Manager of Policy Planning
Aloma Dreher, Senior Planner – Policy