

From: no-reply@web-response.com on behalf of [Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake](#)
To: [Clerks](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Delegation Request Form
Date: July 15, 2024 11:04:02 AM

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Submitted on Mon, 07/15/2024 - 11:03

Information

Name

Catherine Lowrey

Address

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Telephone

[REDACTED]

Number

Presentation

Agenda Delegation

Agenda Delegation

Topic

I have never spoken on this issue before

For Agenda delegations please include the title of the item. In point form, provide an overview of what points you will be speaking to:

Konik Estates Phase 2 Subdivision and Condominium ZBA-02-2024, 26T-18-24-02, and 26CD-18-24-01, CDS-24-123

- If possible I would like to address the recommendation put forward by the town staff for preserving a single row of trees.

- I appreciate the staff recommendation taking into consideration the concerns of the

neighbours and the council members.

- However, I'm concerned that the recommendation doesn't take into consideration several factors that might impact the success of the proposal.
- Leaving only a single row while removing 90% of the trees might irrevocably damage the ecosystem for the remaining trees and severely limit any chance of their long term survival.
- Further, who would own the trees that are preserved? Will they be located in the backyards of the new property owners? Will there be any ongoing maintenance or protection provided?

Terms

I have read and understand the Delegation Protocol and acknowledge the information contained on this form, including any attachments, will become public documents and listed on Town Meeting Agendas. I also understand presentation materials including speaking notes and electronic presentations must be submitted by email to clerks@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Monday prior the scheduled meeting.

Yes

Meeting Time

I wish to appear before:

Committee of the Whole

Date

Tue, 07/16/2024 - 00:00

Presentation Requirements

Do you have a visual presentation (slideshow or photos) to accompany your delegation?

No

I agree

Yes

Delegation

I will be appearing:

In person

I also understand presentation materials including speaking notes and electronic presentations must be submitted by email to clerks@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the scheduled meeting.

Yes

I acknowledge I have 10 minutes to delegate

Yes

I give permission to be audio and video recorded on the Town of Niagara on the Lake's livestream

Yes

Do you require accessible accommodation to participate:

No

Privacy Disclaimer

I have read and understand the above Privacy Disclaimer.

Yes

Members of Town Council,

My name is Catherine Lowrey and I live at 46 Pinot Trail.

I want to start by saying that I appreciate that the staff incorporated the concerns of the community members and councilmembers regarding the trees and wildlife, and have recommended preserving a single row of trees. However, I'm wondering if there are some things that haven't been fully considered about the ultimate success of this proposal. I'd like to ask that before this is approved, there be a more thorough discussion of the details of the proposed solution.

It's important to remember that preserving a single row of trees would still result in the destruction of 720 mature trees, approximately 90% of the remaining tree stand. This many trees growing together stop being single trees and become one large organism that depends on all the parts to remain healthy. At this point, we can't think of this as simply tree removal, this is the destruction of a forest.

In a tree stand like this, the root systems develop soil balance and a communication system within the soil that would be likely be irrevocably damaged if 90% of the other trees were removed.

Similarly, trees that grow this closely together tend to depend on the other trees to protect from extreme weather and high winds. Leaving a single row would all but eliminate this protective effect leaving these trees vulnerable to harsher elements.

All this to say, my fear is that leaving only a single row of trees would set those trees up for failure and we would see a large portion of them die within a few years. Perhaps a professional arborist could consult on whether leaving at least two or three rows of trees would result in greater tree survival.

At this time, it is crucial that we preserve as much mature forests in our area as we can. This is a well-established woodlot that provides habitat for many species of wildlife (including as identified in the new environmental assessment mentioned in this report, species of at-risk birds as well as birds covered under the migratory bird act), areas for important native plants to grow and also offers health benefits to the inhabitants of our town that you cannot put a price tag on. Exposure to natural areas significantly enhances physical and mental well-being. This is particularly evident in children, and growing up around nature instills a sense of responsibility to the environment.

I urge the town and Gray Forest to continue to work together to protect more than just a single row of trees.

I have some specific questions about the current recommendations:

When initially replacing any unhealthy trees, what constitutes a mature coniferous tree?

Once the trees are protected, who would they belong to?

Would they be in the backyards of the residents of the new development or would they remain between both yards?

Will there be ongoing protection and maintenance of the trees?

Once again, thank you all for your efforts and for this chance to speak to our concerns.

Thank you.

Catherine Lowrey