



The Municipality of West Elgin

22413 Hoskins Line, Rodney Ontario N0L 2C0

December 1, 2020

At the Regular Meeting of Council on November 26, 2020 the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin passed the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 2020-410

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Tellier

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

Whereas the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications; and

Whereas we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act; and

Whereas the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without conservation authority and watershed data and expertise; and

Whereas the Legislation suggest that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs; and

Whereas municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representation on Conservation Authority Boards should be a municipal decision, and the Chair and Vice Chair of a Conservation Authority Board should be duly elected; and

Whereas the changes to the "Duty Members" contradicts the fiduciary duty of a Conservation Authority Board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed; and

P: 519.785.0560 ext 222
F: 519.785.0644

E: clerk@westelgin.net
www.westelgin.net

Whereas conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Services and Streamlining Initiative; and

Whereas changes to the legislation will create ore red tape and costs for the conservation authorities and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process; and

Whereas municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities; work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of West Elgin request:

That the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229);

That the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;

That the Province respect the current conservation authority and municipal relationships; and

That the province embrace their long-standing partnership with conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

Carried

Jana Nethercott
Clerk

P: 519.785.0560
F: 519.785.0644

E: deputyclerk@westelgin.net
www.westelgin.net