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April 23, 2024

Hello Colleagues,

I am circulating an amendment in advance of Council for the Byron Gravel Pit Secondary Plan in regard to the bank swallow habitat located at the Byron Gravel Pit. Currently the long-term habitat plans are up in the air as there is great complexity between legislation of the Aggregate Resources Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Given this uncertainty, the following direction to staff ensures that the bank swallow habitat is not lost or forgotten in the quagmire of competing provincial legislation and does not hold up the Secondary Plan or future development opportunities. Everything can move forward as planned, and at the same time we can ensure that there is bank swallow habitat somewhere onsite.

Parks & Forestry staff will be undertaking a comprehensive Park Master Plan for the area. Bank swallow habitat could be a huge eco-tourism asset if included in the Park Master Plan. If the bank swallow habitat remains as existing in its current location, then no further efforts are needed, which is captured in the motion as well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Skylar Franke
Ward 11 City Councillor

Proposed Amendment:

Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to ensure that future background studies supporting the development of a Park Master Plan for the Byron gravel pit investigate the creation and inclusion of artificial habitat or an alternative location for the Bank Swallow, if such needs are required due to planned relocation of the habitat;