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CANADA

Dear Council Colleagues,

RE: Agenda Item 4.2 - Medway Valley Environmentally Significant Area Attawandaron Road Encroachments and Conservation Master Plan

I am writing to provide clarity on my position regarding the Medway Valley ESA Attawandaron Road trail investigation and the Conservation Master Plan and the related matters before the Planning and Environment Committee.

I do not believe it is necessary to undertake further public engagement on the level 3 trail. There was extensive debate and discussion on this issue last year. A communication out to neighbours in the affected area clearly communicating the change in status from a Level 3 to a Level 1 area within the Conservation Master Plan should suffice. With respect to the 10-metre ecological buffer from the passive recreation space, this already appears to be in place based on the markings in the area. For clarity, I'd like to see the ecological buffer as expressed on the map follow the curve of the existing naturalized area located behind 1630 Attawandaron Road.

It is my view that the existing Attawandaron Park sign should remain in place, and that the area currently referred to as "passive recreation" be reclassified formally as parkland to reflect historical usage as well as the plan to continue to mow this area. This reflects both the function and the community's understanding of the space.

Additionally, I am requesting that the Planning and Environment Committee endorse an amendment to Part (c) of the motion to include a minor variance process. This would provide an alternative mechanism for individual property owners with properties abutting the open space to pursue remedies where boundary disputes exist.

Many of the current encroachments involve trees, shrubs, and landscaped buffers that include pollinator features, including beautiful, mature trees that contribute significantly to the character and environmental value of the area. These are precisely the features we should not be considering for removal. In the interest of the broader community, I believe we should adopt either through a dedicated bylaw or through an update to the Conservation Master Plan an approach that saves these features. This update should include explicit language to protect both native and non-native trees in this area, recognizing their environmental, aesthetic, and community value.

I offer these points in the spirit of collaboration and responsible stewardship of our shared natural spaces, and I look forward to the discussion at planning and environment committee.

Sincerely,

Corrine Rahman
Councillor, Ward 7