

EEPAC COMMENTS ON THE ReTHINK ZONING DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

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EEPAC notes there is nothing in the draft document referring to the natural heritage system.

EEPAC recommends the following wording be included in the Terms of Reference:

- a. In setting zoning, the city shall:
 - give highest priority to the protection of the natural heritage system;
 - demonstrate a comprehensive natural heritage system approach;
 - improve species at risk policies, and not rely only on the Endangered Species Act, 2007
 - reference to the provincial Natural Heritage Reference Manual dated April 2010 which provides recommended criteria and approaches for being consistent with the PPS

At a minimum, add to section 2.2

- protect the natural heritage system and avoid hazard lands

EEPAC also notes

- that the Green Framework is only mentioned once and there are no outcomes related to it in section 2.3.
- Phase 2 does not include the current OS zoning - the focus seems exclusively on built form.
- Section 4.2 does not include expertise in environmental planning and ecology as one of the requirements of the consulting firm.
- There is no ecologist on the Steering Committee
- The Lower Thames and Kettle Creek C.As are not included in the list of stakeholders on page 15, nor is Nature London

EEPAC also notes that there is no mention of climate change and urban design. Many cities are moving to incorporate the projected outcomes of climate change into building designs both to mitigate against and adapt to changing weather patterns and to address the urban heat island effect that will worsen with higher temperatures in coming years. Although EEPAC recognizes that urban design is not necessarily included in zoning, not including the heat island effect and its impact on urban life seems to be a glaring omission.

EEPAC recommends

- b. there should be a review of the OS zoning perhaps to include a “Natural Heritage Zone” distinct from other “park-like” OS zones in the current zoning by law
- c. The RFP or other similar document for consulting services include expertise in environmental planning and ecology
- d. An ecologist be a member of the Steering Committee or at a minimum, be included at the table when related matters are included on the agenda. An ecologist should also be asked for an opinion when the tender documents for consulting services are reviewed
- e. The Lower Thames and Kettle Creek C.As and Nature London also be included as stakeholders
- f. The zoning project include a climate change mitigation lens in its work