

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

JULY 2, 2009.

Question for COUNCIL of TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

Could the Council please let us know its priorities, preferences and inclination in their decision making process for long term projects?

Is the welfare, wellbeing and concerns of the citizens and ratepayers of the township a priority for the Council?

Is the local environment an important issue for the Council, especially our precious water resource which could be permanently contaminated, damaged and destroyed by deep quarries extracting gravel and stone below water tables? And the simultaneous destruction and disappearance of our precious farmlands?

OR

Is the council inclined to favour super fast growth and economic benefits by permitting environmentally unfriendly projects?

Submitted by: Putli & Noshir Mirza. 2nd Line NE. Melancthon.

JUL 16 2009

Denise Holmes, Melancthon Township

From: Steve and Marni [steve@bakermagicshows.com]
Sent: Friday, July 03, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Denise Holmes, Melancthon Township
Subject: questions for council

Madame Mayor,

First, as a citizen, it has been my observation for many months, that as head of Melancthon Council you have stalled any and all attempts by your citizens to seek avenues of expertise to protect the environment and maintain the agricultural foundation of this Township in wake of an open pit mine. You have been given solid suggestions by citizens who understand Municipal law. My family and I want to know why you will not follow through?

Secondly, as a citizen, if ratepayers are directing this Council to adjust the budget to accommodate such requests as an agrologist to set criteria to designate the Honeywood Loam Soils as a "Specialty Crop Designation" to increase the chances of protection from an open pit mine, is it not the responsibility of the Council to at least give thoughtful discussion to this issue and explain why the protection of farmland and water is not a priority?

Third, as a citizen, I heard you promise each person in the gallery a chance to ask at least one question during question period. This promise should be honoured, even if it takes all day. Will the Mayor honour this promise in the future?

Finally, as a citizen, if a Municipal government does nothing more than pass legislation onto the Provincial level, why do we need a Municipal government? My husband and I suggest that as Mayor, you fight for the integrity of this Township or step down now.

Marni Walsh and Steve Baker
Melancthon Citizens

Date: July 6th 2009
To: Melancthon Township
Re: Questions for Q&A Segment of Council Meeting
From: David Vander Zaag

In follow up to the questions posed at the previous meeting, enclosed are expanded and additional questions for Council's consideration. Unfortunately I will be traveling and away during the upcoming Council Meeting on July 16th, 2009; so I will have a representative ask the following questions to Council, which we would like to address more fully.

1. The list of reports suggested and presented to Council by The Highland Companies at the June 24th pre-application consultation meeting contained the following clause:

"The above chart sets out a complete list of all of the materials and reports required to meet the complete application requirements for an official plan amendment and a zoning by-law amendment to permit a mineral aggregate quarry in the Township of Melancthon"

By adding this clause, and providing a line for signature by the Township's planner, Mr. G. W. Jordan, and Clerk, the Highland Companies was in effect requesting that the Township foreclose itself from the opportunity to require further reports, testing, independent studies and other data and information as may be necessary to ensure that the application is complete. The applicant also suggested that the Township should not follow the standard procedure followed by other municipalities of obtaining peer review studies due to the time that would be involved and other factors.

This request by The Highland Companies pre-supposes that the Township does not intend to treat this application with the rigor that it deserves having regard to the potential impact that the proposed use could have on the environment and surrounding land uses.

My questions on this topic are straightforward:

- (a) Does the Township have a fee by-law in place to allow them to collect fees and expenses from the applicant related to the processing and consideration of the application? If not, will you be taking immediate steps to implement it?
- (b) Is it the Township's intent to instruct Mr. Jorden, either on his own, or acting in conjunction with another planning firm that has extensive experience in reviewing quarry/aggregate applications, to independently develop a preliminary list of the types of reports, testing and other data that will be required in order for the application to be considered complete?
- (c) As a follow up to the preceding question, and given that the Township has not yet seen or had an opportunity to review and consider the applicant's reports, will the Township (in connection with any list of reports, etc. provided by the Township) be taking the prudent step of reserving its right to request further and/or more comprehensive reports and studies once the application is filed?

(d) Will the Township be engaging third party consultants, including without limitation, agrologists, hydrologists, hydro-geologists, environmental consultants and fiscal impact experts, to conduct independent studies (in addition to peer review studies) at the applicant's expense as permitted under The Planning Act? The applicant states that it is worried about the timing of completing independent and peer review studies. However, isn't it clearly in the public's interest to ensure that all matters relevant to this proposed land use are thoroughly investigated?

2. I have obtained and reviewed a copy of the AEMOT Groundwater Management Study that was completed in May 2001, after the Walkerton tragedy. My understanding is that the Study was commissioned by 5 Municipalities, including the Township of Melancthon, in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment, at a cost of \$275,000. The Study activities included the following (quoting from the MOE website); a study area characterization (geography, land use, water demand, hydrogeology); modeling of groundwater flows; preparation of a water budget; assessment of aquifer vulnerability; and creation of a groundwater management plan.

The Study concluded that the water table and aquifer in many portions of Melancthon Township, including areas which may be the subject of the applicant's quarry application, are extremely vulnerable. The Study recommended, among other things, that the affected municipalities should develop a strategy to protect these water resources and integrate these protections into their Official Plan and zoning processes.

My question is as follows: Does the Township intend to turn its back on this Study, or does it intend to engage the appropriate hydrological and hydro-geological experts to ensure that these recommendations that are vital to the public's interest are incorporated into its Official Plan, zoning and by-law approval processes?

3. Section 2.2 of the Provincial Policy Statement makes it mandatory for municipalities to protect, improve and restore the quality and quantity of water, by, among other things:
 - Minimizing potential negative impacts, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impact (for example, this aquifer affects not only Melancthon, but Mulmur as well as all other jurisdictions that are affected by the Grand and Nottawasaga River watersheds).
 - Identifying ground water features and hydrological functions which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed.
 - Implementing necessary restrictions on development and site alteration to protect sensitive ground water features and their hydrological functions.

In fact, the PPS also provides that development and site alteration shall be restricted in or near sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features such that these features and their related hydrological functions will be protected, improved or restored.

So given the findings in the AEMOT Study, do you not feel that it is imperative on behalf of the Township and its residents, as well as the residents of Mulmur and other affected jurisdictions, to ensure that you comply with your obligations as directed by the Province pursuant to the PPS? What steps will you be taking to discharge this duty?

Thank you in advance for your response to these questions,

David Vander Zaag

Denise Holmes, Melancthon Township

From: Cosack [cosack@stn.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 11:11 PM
To: 'Denise Holmes, Melancthon Township'
Cc: 'Dave Vanderzaag'; 'Karren Wallace'; 'Dale Rutledge'; 'Norman Wolfson'; 'Rob Green'
Subject: Hi Denise,

Please post the following to Council as questions for July 16th. I have a funeral to attend that day; can you let me know what time questions will be dealt with, please?

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

It is abundantly clear that the issue of the pit application is not what anyone living in Melancthon asked for, not you nor the vast majority of people that you represent. This decision, that will impact the history of this township and communities all along two major watersheds involving about 1.5 million people, is so big, its magnitude is hard for me to fathom.

I appreciate your stated views of provincial priorities; however, you are not elected to represent the provinces view, you were elected to represent the view of your residents.

The majority of your residents do not want their township turned into North America's largest quarry.

I am asking you, if you will declare that your mandate does not include turning this township into a quarry but rather to protect the soil and water that is present, to all your ability?

I am asking you, in order to promote that protection and show everyone close and afar that you are serious about the protection of your neighbourhood; will you hire the necessary agrologist to proceed with the Specialty Crops Designation as part of the Official Plan?

I am asking you, are you in favour of deferring the decision on an application, and making that stance abundantly clear, until after the next municipal election, whose number ONE issue will be this planned development, so that that Council, with a clear mandate from the population, is better equipped to represent its electorate? Nobody should push this decision on you without a clear mandate. Anyone who does clearly does not have Melancthon's best interest at heart.

Do you realise that you have the absolute responsibility to represent your ratepayers and, if the Province does not agree with your stance that they can appeal your decision, and thus they are the ones that will be responsible for the outcome?

On the other hand, by considering the above and moving forward with the Designation process, you will have done what you are elected to do, represent the majority of your constituents.

I am also asking you to hire a lawyer, who is independent, to represent Council in these matters. In the letter dated

February 27th, 2009 Mr Osyany is clearly partisan in his advice that Council should not do all it can to represent the views of its residents but rather allow the province to dictate what is important for Melancthon. Quote:

As for the Province of Ontario, aggregate extractive industries have been given a very high priority, and again, there is really nothing that the Township can do to stop such a development entirely, but only to seek the best possible deals for the Township.

I look forward to attending Council meeting on July 16th. Dave Vander Zaag is way that day so I will represent him regarding the questions he has already posted.

Thank you for your attention to these. We all want to find a way to get as much information out and considered before such great changes take place. Anything done in haste, or without full disclosure, will never turn out to be a good decision.

Sincerely,
Carl Cosack
NDACT Member

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To: dholmes@melancthontownship.ca Message Score: 40
My Spam Blocking Level: High

High (60): Pass
Medium (75): Pass

7/10/2009

JUL 16 2009

Cam McLean
RR #2
Shelburne, ON
L0N1S6

July 9, 2009

To: Melancthon Township Council

Question – Will Melancthon Township Council notify all taxpayers of the Highland Company's activities and the imminent quarry application. In addition request opinions on whether or not Council should put all efforts into protecting the land and soils that have defined this community long before large scale aggregate extraction was possible.

I understand this is not a requirement that Council must fulfil. However I think we would all agree that this development is the most important issue that Melancthon has ever faced. I feel it is Council's duty to inform each and every taxpayer of the changes that are coming and that could dramatically change our Township for ever.

I hope you will give this due consideration.

Thank you,
Cam McLean

JUL 16 2009

To: Melancthon Township Council.

At the Saturday, June 20th, 2009 public meeting held by NDACT in Honeywood, Mayor Fawcett stated that no house that had been demolished by Lowndes/Highland was taken to the Melancthon landfill.

I would like to remind Council of the meeting on August 7th, 2008. Rick Riddal, landfill superintendent discussed a house that was taken into the landfill site. This was the old Tavares homestead on 280 Side road.

Here are some points that I recall during that meeting on August 7th, 2008.

Rick Riddall, Landfill Supervisor update

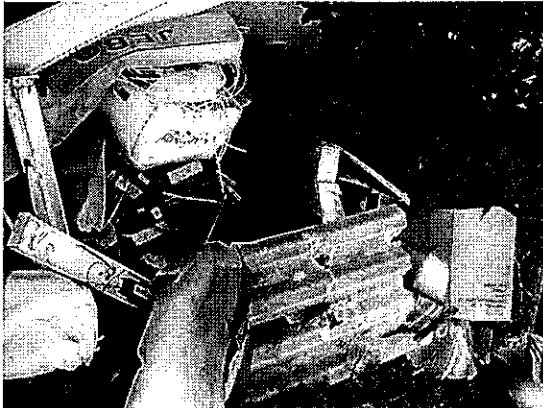
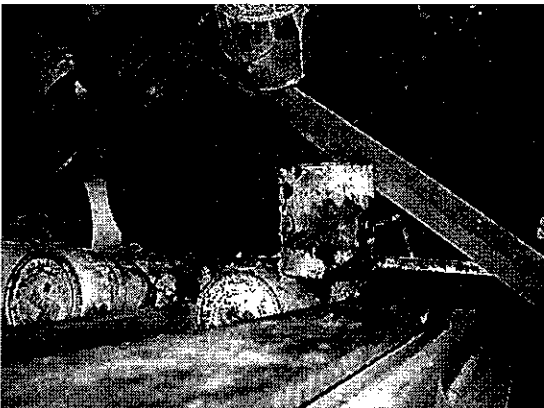
- regarding disposal of former Tavares property on Friday, August 1, 2008
 - o not allowed to dig and bury house on site
 - o 28 loads were brought into our landfill
 - o Lost 2 months of our landfill with this waste.
 - o Nicholas showed Rick electronic waste – TV, telephones. These were put in Rick's truck
 - o 25 more houses are to be demolished
 - o Township does not want this to be put in our landfill
 - o What is the proper way of disposal?
 - Contacted surrounding counties and they do not accept demolition in their landfills – Mulmur and Amaranth
 - Rick to advise the contractor that they have to dispose of this themselves – bins, company that does the disposal, dumpsters
 - Can the fire department use some of these houses as practice?
 - Have someone inspect the houses before demolition to make sure there is no hazardous waste in them

Below are pictures from August 1st, 2008 showing McIntyre Aggregates' trucks taking the house refuse into our landfill. Two of 28 truck loads.



JUL 16 2009

Here is a small sample of some of the contents in the house left behind on moving day. These contents were taken to the landfill. No designated dumpsters were on site for demolition.



Ratepayers have to take their household hazardous waste and electronics on specified days to designated drop areas. I'm wondering how Highlands Co. can take a whole house filled with electronics and containers of hazardous materials into our landfill. This blatantly contravenes the posted acceptable materials that are allowed in the landfill. Is there another list of acceptable materials containing these items that we are not aware of?

If there is any doubt I would like to invite Mayor Fawcett and other councilors to my home to view the video I took of the demolition and trucks taking their cargo into our landfill.

Is there a Building Demolition permit form to assist the township in assuring that the demolition conforms to the Building code act? Also to identify all "Designated Substances" and hazardous materials on the construction site as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Without hampering economic progress we must still be able to be environmentally responsible. It is essential to our well being and way of life

Christine and Dave Boyle

Denise Holmes, Melancthon Township

From: robuffen@yahoo.ca
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 11:47 AM
To: dholmes@melancthontownship.ca
Cc: info@ndact.com; karrenwallace@sympatico.ca
Subject: Question for Council

To Melancthon Township Council,

Please accept the following group of questions. I look forward to your answers at the next council meeting, July 16 and, then, in writing.

Given the great deal of public concern regarding the massive land assembly of 3191574 Nova Scotia Company, 3218089 Nova Scotia Company and 1712665 Ontario Inc. and the activities relevant to Melancthon Township of their subsidiaries Highland Companies and Oneworld Energy Inc./ Greenbreeze Windpark and of their associates Lowndes Holdings Corp., Counsel Public Affairs Inc. and Special Situations Inc. what, comprehensively and specifically, are Melancthon Township Council members, individually or collectively, doing:

1. to insure nothing untoward is occurring?
2. to protect the natural environment and social fabric of Melancthon Township?
3. to protect cross jurisdictional environmental and public interests?

Sincerely,
Rob Uffen

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7/10/2009