



Milton Council votes unanimously to object to Hidden Quarry application, following similar Halton Hills and Halton Region decisions. GET will state its position next week, on Wed. Oct. 7 at Rockmosa.

Yesterday evening, there was a big CRC crowd at the Milton Council meeting. Linda Sword, Doug Tripp and Dan Kennaley spoke on behalf of CRC, and nine residents made additional, pointed, informative and sometimes impassioned presentations.

(We are collecting the presentation documents by residents from last night's Milton meeting and last week's GET meeting so we can share them. Please forward any written documents you prepared to the above address.)

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED AND CONTRIBUTED TO A VERY IMPRESSIVE AND PERSUASIVE PUBLIC PRESENCE!!

The 12 presentations not only raised many concerns about the potential Hidden Quarry impacts; they also stated their opposition to the Milton staff report recommending that Milton Council take no action, allocate no funding, and leave the responsibility for the OMB hearing to Halton Region.

When it came time for Councillors to speak to the report and issue, Colin Best and Cindy Lunau presented a mutually agreed upon amendment, stating that Milton Council should object to the Hidden Quarry application in principle, and that the Town of Milton should assist the Region with information as required.

There was a dramatic moment when the Council stood unanimously to pass the motion. We in the audience were happy that there seemed to be a true understanding of what North Milton residents would be facing by all members of Council.

Colin Best stated that the Hidden Quarry would affect Milton more than Rockwood, and reminded Council that Milton has seen its share of quarries. He noted that a former quarry at Steeles and Appleby Line had caused serious impacts from vibration and flyrock and was

ultimately closed by the province who bought the land. In the case of the St. Mary's proposal in Flamborough, the province had to step in once again. He saw parallels with the Hidden Quarry. Clearly, he said, the province is leaving it to small communities and resident groups to fight these proposals on a one-by-one basis, when the province should be providing leadership in assessing aggregate needs and application processes. He said that there is more than enough aggregate already available - pits and quarries are not operating at full capacity. At the same time, if we do not stop this one, there will be more.

Cindy Lunau indicated that she thought Council should remain open-minded about potential funding to assist the Region in building its case for the OMB. She did not want to see the door closed. Councillors agreed that this was a Milton issue, that it was not just a rural, north Milton issue. Councillor Cluett, who is also a Regional Councillor, like Colin Best, reminded Council that all municipalities (Oakville, Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton) represented on Halton Region Council had unanimously voted to object to the Hidden Quarry application.

Councillor Huffman noted that some properties south of Hwy. 7 in Milton have been purchased by numbered companies.

The final motion reads: "That planning report PD-036-15 entitled 'James Dick Construction Ltd. - Proposed Hidden Quarry' be received for information; and that the Town of Milton object to the application in principle and that staff provide information as needed to support the Region's position at any hearings; and further that the Clerk forward a copy of Report PD-036-15 to Halton Region, the Town of Halton Hills, Township of Guelph Eramosa, Minister of Natural Resources and Ted Arnott MPP."

Councillors impressed on the audience the fact that Milton and Halton Hills municipal taxes are shared between the Region and the Towns, and that the Region has far more staff and financial resources to do the kind of work required in this case than the individual towns.

Now Guelph Eramosa Township is the only municipal government left to state its position. That position will be made public on Wednesday, October 7 at Rockmosa Community Hall in Rockwood. You will find attached the document CRC submitted to GET Council addressing the flaws, gaps and weaknesses in the Howson Planning Report. This report was based, in large part, on the presentations CRC Board members made to GET Council on September 15, along with the many delegations by individual residents.

There is a report about the meeting on-line from the Milton Champion today:

<http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/5936331-milton-council-backs-groups-efforts-to-stop-quarry-proposal/>

Your neighbour,
Linda