



TOM MRAKAS
MAYOR

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MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL AND CUT RED TAPE BY UPHOLDING MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL PLANS

“While I applaud the Province for hosting a Housing Summit and taking an important step forward to identify strategies to address the housing needs of Ontarians, we don’t need to wait a year for their report on barriers to housing development – we already know the source of red tape that is delaying development of the “missing middle” in housing – the Ontario Land Tribunal.

I have brought forward the following motion to eliminate the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal) to Aurora Town Council on Feb 22nd. I hope that all 444 Municipalities will join this fight to “cut red tape” and streamline land use planning in Ontario. Let’s, finally, recognize the authority of municipalities to uphold their own provincially approved Official Plans.”

WHEREAS Municipalities across this province collectively spend millions of dollars of taxpayer money and municipal resources developing Official Plans that meet current Provincial Planning Policy; and

WHEREAS an Official Plan is developed through months of public consultation to ensure, “that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of (our) community”; and

WHEREAS our Official Plan includes zoning provisions that encourage development of the “missing middle” or “gentle density” to meet the need for attainable housing in our community; and

WHEREAS our Official Plan is ultimately approved by the Province; and

WHEREAS it is within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to approve Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that better the community or fit within the vision of the Town of Aurora Official Plan; and

WHEREAS it is also within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to deny Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that do not better the community or do not fit within the vision of the Town of Aurora Official Plan; and

WHEREAS municipal planning decisions may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT; formerly the Ontario Municipal Board or “OMB”), an unelected, appointed body that is not accountable to the residents of Aurora; and

WHEREAS the OLT has the authority to make a final decision on planning matters based on a “best planning outcome” and not whether the proposed development is in compliance with municipal and provincially approved official plans or consistent with provincial plans and policy; and

WHEREAS all decisions—save planning decisions—made by Municipal Council are similarly only subject to appeal by judicial review and such appeals are limited to questions of law; and

WHEREAS Ontario is the only province in Canada that empowers a separate adjudicative tribunal to review and overrule local decisions applying provincially approved plans; and

WHEREAS towns and cities across this province are repeatedly forced to spend millions of dollars defending Official Plans that have already been approved by the Province in expensive, time consuming and ultimately futile OLT hearings; and

WHEREAS lengthy, costly OLT hearings act as a barrier to the development of attainable housing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT Aurora Town Council requests the Government of Ontario dissolve the OLT immediately thereby eliminating one of the most significant sources of red tape delaying the development of more attainable housing in Ontario;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of the Liberal and Green Party, all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; the Large Urban Mayors’ Caucus of Ontario, the Small Urban GTHA Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

- 30 -

AURORA TOWN HALL