

Also, Mr. McCullough has undertaken to consult with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs as to the relocation of their trail, which bisects the forest. I know, from personal experience, that it only takes 5 minutes to travel that snowmobile trail from one end to the other. Any relocation of that trail will bring it closer to the residences, which boarder the forest. Yet, Mr. McCullough seems willing to discuss the relocation with people who spend five minutes travelling that trail, and he has simultaneously refused to allow the participation of the residents who live there, year round. In order to allow for the operation of the OFSC trail groomer, an additional swath of forest 30 feet wide will need to be reopened and clear-cut. This equates to another 4 acres, bringing the total to 24. Why do County Staff persist in understating, and or minimizing any potential negative effect?

At one of the public information sessions held at Simcoe County Museum, the County's transportation specialist had on display a storyboard stating that, at peak production the increase in traffic along Horseshoe Valley Road would be 6.2%. That doesn't sound significant, until you consider that effectively 100% of that increase will be comprised of large garbage trucks and tractor trailers. When working back that calculation, and allowing for the existing volume of heavy truck traffic, the true impact will not be an increase of 6.2% comprised of family sedans, travelling smoothly through the area, on their way to Wasaga Beach or the various ski hills. Rather, it would be for an overall increase of 62% in heavy truck traffic beyond its present level. Not travelling smoothly through the area, but arriving/departing that specific site, 13 hours a day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., 6 days a week, from Monday through to Saturday inclusive. The true impact is clearly much greater than County Staff would have you believe.

Mr. Marshall is on record as informing the media that the objections to the site are only from a small group of local landowners. Notice how he shies away from calling these people homeowners. Why? Would the negative impact be more apparent if he were to admit that these are homeowners and not simply absentee land barons? What is his definition of small? Given that there were approximately 465 ratepayers present at the first series of 10 public meetings, and all appeared to be opposed to the proposed conversion of any of our forests, is that number considered small? Given that a petition has been presented to County Staff, with more than 1,000 signatures, is that number considered small? Given that the County's own consultant, GHD, has provided a report alluding to 74% of the public being opposed to placement of this type of facility, in any of our forests, is that number considered small?

All I can say is that in terms of meaningful consultation, the County has, from the outset, made reference to giving the public ample opportunity to write meaningful consultation. There is consultation, and there is meaningful consultation. When the County simply gathers comments from the public and then ignores them, is that meaningful? Why? Why is that being done?

Are you aware? You should be aware, that early in the process it was acknowledged by the County, that part of the funding for the proposed project is available through government funding, necessitating the participation of at least one other community. Barrie and Orillia are the only communities which handle their own garbage. Barrie has been consulted. Barrie produces 24% of the garbage in the entire county. Why was the city of Barrie excluded from calculation of where the centroid could be? It's within the centroid. There are numerous industrial sites along Highway 400, where the impact would be not even noticeable. Add in another 210 trucks a day, 420 round trips, leaving Highway 400 and entering an existing industrial site, the impact wouldn't even be noticeable. Why are we ignoring the City of Barrie? Why are they excluded from any participation in this? Why?

You've seen the huge hill of garbage in Barrie. It's nearing capacity. Wouldn't it make sense to approach the City of Barrie and say, "Hey, we're committed to this, we're going to put in the facility. Why don't you provide the location?" Ms. Korolnek is on record right now as stating that the end market for the product is Hamilton. That's not going to change. Why would we ship 24% of the county's garbage 15 kilometers north to this site, sort it, process it, and then ship it back that same 15 kilometers on its way to Hamilton? Why?

Mr. McCullough states that the estimated saving, I believe, are 12 million dollars over 20 years. Do you realize that, that equates to about \$1.30 per resident per year? Wouldn't that same transportation cost saving be applicable from an existing industrial site? Wouldn't an existing industrial site be cheaper to convert? It would have all of the facilities needed. You'd have hydro, water, everything you'd need. Why place it in the middle of a forest, where you have none of those facilities now?

It seems like this was predetermined from the outset that it was going to be placed in one of our forests. And I'm still not sure why. Given that Mr. McCullough has arranged a visit to two different facilities for the near neighbours, how could you determine who the near neighbours were, until such time as the site has been firmly selected? Doesn't that seem a bit presumptuous? What if a different site is selected? What about the taxpayers, ratepayers money that's been spent, touring facilities by people who are not the near neighbours?

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

What I would suggest, is if there's any clear clarification on things that are the issues as opposed to the process. I think that's really what we're doing today; just if with your minutes that are remaining I think, if it's noise, if it's traffic, and things along those lines. The process.

R. Wagner:

It's all of the above. It's all of the above. It seems like, for some reason known only to the inner circle, this has been predetermined. All of the activities leading up to selection of this site, any difficulties with it have been glossed over, or not stated clearly. Where those statistics have been thrown at County Council, there hasn't been any summary to impact to go with it.

I guess, in conclusion, the one thing I would ask, is that when you see the projections as to the cost effectiveness of this proposal ... I'm currently in commercial banking, in the role of credit oversight for all of Ontario. I've seen an awful lot of projections over the years, and they typically support the desired end. You're not going to see projections that tell you, this isn't going to work. What I would ask, is that when you get those projections, please ask for comparative projections, as to alternate sites that might be available, industrial sites. And there are many of them. I've pointed out one to Mr. McCullough and he's refused to consider it, on the basis that it wasn't brought forward at the time that the project was started. Does that mean that, as the process continues, any other possibilities that land in the lap of council...

Deputy Warden Dowdall: 10 seconds.

R. Wagner:

-will be overlooked? Please, when you get the projections, ask for the details of other sites, and see how they compare to this. I would not expect there to be a significant difference. If you want to gauge the reaction of the public, go to the schools. There's not a school child, in this County, that would agree to give up one of our forests for a \$1.30.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you sir.

R. Wagner:

Thank you.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: If you could ... Thank you for your presentation. At this time, I'm going to ask County Council if they have any comments or questions for clarification at this time.

I see none. Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Wagner.

R. Wagner: Thank you.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Up next, we have Ms. Mary Wagner. So if Ms. Mary Wagner could come down, that would be fantastic.

Good morning, Mary. If you could just, once again for the record, state your name and address.

M. Wagner: Thank you. My name is Mary Wagner and my address is 2928 Horseshoe Valley Road. And it's no coincidence, I am related to the man that was just speaking.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you very much. Go ahead.

M. Wagner:

Good morning to County Council and Staff.

I am a resident of Springwater Township, and I am president of the citizen group Friends of Simcoe Forest Incorporated. The Simcoe County is requesting an amendment to its official plan to accommodate their choice, to site an

environmental resource recovery centre, in an agriculture and residential area. There is a reason the official plan does not presently allow this. I, and our approximately 200 members, are concerned with the apparent shift in county values, away from the great works of Deputy Minister Edmund Zavitz and Premier Ernest Drury. When Simcoe County named one of its forests the E.C. Drury County Forest, in recognition of his efforts in reforestation, he is quoted as saying, "I would rather have this for my monument, than a statue in Queens Park or on University Avenue." How proud, he was, of his legacy. A legacy his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren can claim as their heritage.

My husband, as a child, roamed and remembers many of his adventures in the Freele Forest. Many of the members of Friends of Simcoe Forests recall venturing into this forest, and spending hours playing with salamanders, frogs, and snakes. Holding their breath when they caught sight of a doe and her fawn. Present day, this forest is visited by turkey and deer hunters, bikes, horses. Dog walking and hiking are daily visits and activities that occur here. We now have a grandson, and our plans of teaching him the wonders of woods in Simcoe County is now, more than ever, in jeopardy. What of the legacy of this council's predecessors? Those men that saw a wasteland of sand, floods, and fires. They experimented until they found the right trees to restore this land. And they did restore this land, to one that no longer allowed flooding, that invited the wildlife, and provided foraging grounds for citizens in search of food such as ferns, leaks, and mushrooms.

Springwater Township has the greatest number of forests in the county. Could it be that it was also the leading township for wasteland and required the most help to restore her healthy forests? Shall Springwater and Oro-Medonte be at constant risk for site selection for next projects, because they have the majority of the forests within the county? Springwater could be asked to provide an industrial site. Has that possibility been discussed? What legacy will council claim today? Will you allow your children and grandchildren to witness you vote away their future? Their lands of natural heritage and wildlife habitat? Their playgrounds for catching tadpoles, or watching the salamander dances?

This is a slippery slope. We could not find any other place in Canada that has placed a materials recovery facility, a materials management facility, organics processing plant, and truck maintenance and parking garage in the middle of a forest, less than 150 meters from people's homes. The most land pressured cities in Southern Ontario have respected setbacks of no less than 300 meters for these facilities. And they are not placed in residential areas. The noise and odor allowances within the industrial sites, that are home to similar facilities, cannot apply to our quiet and fresh air forest. Citizens that attended the County arranged visits with similar facilities, came back with reports of needing ear muffers, to protect them the noise of fans providing the negative pressure within these facilities. Staff at the visited facilities stated that fires were a common, if not a daily, occurrence.

County Council, you have options to site this facility on an industrial land. Is the cost of industrial land too great? What is the dollar value to bring services and roads through a forest? What is the cost to flatten the significantly rolling topography of this facility footprint? What is the cost of destroying the water recharge area that is presently providing water to all citizens on private wells. Why is it that we do not seem to matter?

Friends of Simcoe Forest Incorporated has provided Council and Staff with scoped peer review letters to the planning process and site selection, as well as the environmental impact study for Freele Forests. Please take the time to read these documents. I will also suggest, the County's own Forest Management Plan would make some very good reading.

We, The Friends of Simcoe Forest Incorporated, applaud the green initiative of Simcoe County to take ownership of the waste products that are produced by our citizens. We, The Friends of Simcoe Forest Incorporated, oppose the siting of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre in a forest.

I would also like to announce, here today, that Friends of Simcoe Forest Incorporated has been awarded the Canada 150. John Graves Simcoe Medal of Excellence for Barrie, Springwater, Oro-Medonte. Your organization has been selected as a recipient of the John Graves Simcoe Medal of Excellence for going above and beyond to serve and contribute to our community and our country.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Mary, for your presentation. Once again, if you could give a copy to Staff. And I'll open it up, once again, to the floor. Is there any questions for clarification from County Council?

Seeing none. Thank you very much.

M. Wagner: Thank you very much.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Our next presenter is Mr. and Mrs. Edward Krajcir. I hope I said that right. If you could come down here, that would be great.

Good morning, Edward. I'm sorry if I butchered your last name. If you could state your name for the record.

Edward Krajcir: Edward Krajcir
Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you. And your address

Edward Krajcir: 1286 Rainbow Valley Road East, Phelpston

And I live behind the proposed site, on Rainbow Valley Road. And I just wanted to bring the attention to the County and to the public, that the whole premise of this facility is represented by The Friends of Simcoe Forest. They've gone through a lot of work, and organized.

But my comments are just an addition to what I support with the Friends of Simcoe Forest. And that is, for myself and my wife, we have a horse business. And I'm not sure where, along the way if this proceeds, the interests of the farming community, in this process, are taken into consideration. Because, with the proposed site, it's going to affect our breeding of horses. And right now we have horses that are in the Olympic caliber. And with the proposed site, you've got ambient light and ambient noise, and that affects the breeding cycles of horses.

For me, it's very important, in the natural setting, the natural process of what the area ... When we bought this property, many years ago, it was perfect for the agricultural farmland purposes at the time. There was no planning process for changing this to an industrial land. Where in the process, for all of the decision makers here, does the impact that it will have on the livelihood of not only me, but the other farmers in this area. It'll take a long time to figure out how much money this has cost us to change this whole process to industrial from farmland, which as it has been for years and always proposed to be farmland. How do you change farmland to industrial without a long process where the people in the area are considered in the change of the land?

And also, in addition, just a couple of comments. All the costs associated to ... Where in the ... We haven't seen a final cost of this. Where, along the way, will final costs be addressed with the kind of technology? And where, along the way, will the public have input again when the final costs are decided?

Those are only the two comments I wanted to make that were specific to me. On top of what the County of Simcoe Forest is doing. Sorry, the Friends of Simcoe Forest.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Edward, for your presentation. Are there any questions of clarification from County Council?

Councillor French?

Councillor French: He actually brought up a good point. I'd just like to ask a question. Did GHD or the County have a meeting with the Agricultural Community or someone such as yourself, to ask you what the possible impact may be, in locating the facility where they're suggesting it be placed?

Edward Krajcir: I am part of the original 500 meter families, where they considered people within the 500 meters had a special interest, so they brought us in.

In fairness, to the process, I don't think we really tried to address the farmland problem; because as this thing develops, as a horse breeder, we don't understand what it's going to mean to us. It's just when you start to realize how big a scope this is going to be, the noise and the environmental changes just to the lighting and to the traffic, that you start to realize, "How is it going to affect our business?"

I can't say they didn't give us the opportunity, but it's not until a later stage that my wife and I said, "This may really impact us". Can I say that we haven't had the opportunity, but our thinking came a little bit later.

Deputy Warden Follow-up Councillor French?

Dowdall:

Councillor French: Yeah, just to follow-up, and maybe to narrow it down.

So there was no specific effort on the part of the consultant or the County to say, "Let's bring the Agricultural Community" forgetting about the rest of you.

There's no, like to bring, obviously Nicholyn Farms and horse breeders and whatever else may be happening in that area. To find what the specific impact may be on agriculture operations. The problem is, we have a lot of agricultural consultants that talk about the soil, and all that, but sometimes they don't talk about what's actually happening on that land. For clarification, there was no effort to bring the Agricultural Community together and say, "What is the possible impact on you"?

Edward Krajcir: Yes, I would agree with that.

Councillor. Okay. That's all I want. Thank you.

French:

Deputy Warden Thank you. Did you have a question Councillor O'Donnell? You're good? Okay. Any
Dowdall: other comments or questions?

Councillor Allen

Councillor Allen: Thank you Mr. Chair, and thank you to the people who've presented so far, and will be presenting.

I guess it's opportune, because Mr. Krajcir brought up about the viability, the financial business case viability, and as the house knows this is something that I have been bringing up at different times. I see, in the presentation today, the different stages, but I didn't see where the business case, the viability study will be coming forward in those different progressive stages. I was disappointed to see where and when that will occur in this process. It seems to be chunking along, and I'm anxious to see the feasibility, the business case, the assessment frantically that Mr. Krajcir and Mr. Wagner referred to, of the alternatives. Extending out existing service providers versus this expensive process.

I draw to the attention of the House, that may or may not be aware, there is a 42 acre organics waste facility in Belleville, processing 70,000 tons of organic waste annually, that has just gone into receivership. Astoria Organics Matters Limited. I'm in the process of contacting the receiver to get the receivers report, find out detail as to why this facility went into receivership, obviously of concern. The facts should be of interest to the House. And I'll be reporting back.

I'll be interested in knowing an update as to when and where, when we will be receiving a detailed business viability and budget for these projects. Thank you.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Thank you, Councillor Allen. I do know that there will be requests for proposals. I don't know if anyone wanted to quickly speak to that. Until we get to a certain point, it's hard for somebody to do an RFP. And through that, we'll have our budget and it will be up to this council at that time to make that decision.

Councillor Allen:

I appreciate that Mr. Chair. But, in this process, we saw the different ... I didn't see when that would be occurring. And I think it's becoming overdue, to understand that.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Thank you. Did you want to comment to that?

Edward Krajcir:

No. I have no additional comments. Other than, just to add, while I've got the floor here. I also represent Karen Smith and I don't know if she's on your list.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Thank you Edward.

Up next we have Ms. Charlotte Fuller. If she could proceed down here, that would be wonderful.

Good morning. If you could state your full name and address, that would be great.

Charlotte Fuller:

Certainly. My name is Charlotte Fuller. I'm at 14 Pine Hill Drive in Springwater.

I'm not very good with public speaking, so I chose to submit a letter, which outlined what I object to.

I just would like to take this opportunity to ask Council to think about what it is that you're voting on, and what you're doing. We have a lot of forests here in Simcoe County, doesn't mean that this particular forest is of no value to us. This is a very slippery slope, and we're willing to turn green lands into something industrial. Everywhere you look, people are fighting for the ability for clean air, places to go, we're encouraging our children to get out there and move around. To do something like this in one of our forests, means that there's a possibility that other forests, along the line, down the road, could be subjected to things as well, as industrial.

Once we realize that this is not important, what's to say that the next forest won't be important, and the next one won't be important after that. It is a very slippery slope. And I ask that everybody please consider that, in addition to all the information provided by Bob and Mary Wagner. Thank you.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Charlotte, for your comments. And once again, if you have a piece of paper to hand in or anything-

Charlotte Fuller: I emailed it in.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Email? Okay, perfect. Thank you.

Any comments or questions from Council? Seeing none. We'll move to our next speaker.

If Mr. David White could come down to the podium.

Good morning, Mr. White. If you could state your name and address for the records.

David White: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of County Council. My name is David White and I'm representing Nick and Lynda Van Casteren and their company Nicholyn Farms.

My clients own the property immediately west of the proposed facility, and will be probably the most severely impacted. They're obviously concerned about the impact of this industrial facility on their lives, their property, and their business. I will not repeat the points raised by the previous speakers, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Krajcir, but certainly do adopt those issues.

It's interesting that you've elected to call this an Environmental Resource Recovery Centre. This has nothing to do with environmental resources. If I've ever seen a misnomer, this is it. And I don't know if it was an intention to mislead, but all of the speakers, on my left here, have indicated that this is a garbage waste processing facility, and it's not an environmental resource centre. When you look at the terms, the terms that are used in the official plan amendment, it's waste management. It's not resource management. It's clearly an industrial use, it belongs in an industrial location with an industrial designation. It's a class two industrial use, designated by the Minister Environment Classification. And it has no basis for being located in a natural heritage feature.

This county's just gone through a very lengthy OMB process for your new County Official Plan. A major part of that process in the OMB hearing, which I was extensively involved with, was resolving the green land policies and the green land mapping. We just finished that OP procedure, and I urge you to go and read the Green Land Policies in your own official plan, and try and come to the conclusion that this proposal, this industrial proposal in your green lands, complies with it. Any one of those policies.

And I agree with the comment, it's the slippery slope. A facility is needed, it's needed somewhere. Probably the City of Barrie, is going to take advantage of this facility. The chances, on the long term, of this facility remaining at 4 1/2 hectares is probably extremely limited. You're creating a precedent, you're creating an industrial site, you're putting on all of the urban services for an industrial site, which belongs in an urban area.

In your literature, you mention a number of other facilities. Guelph, [inaudible], Hamilton, London, Kingston, and Ottawa. Every one of those facilities is located in an industrial park with urban services. You're going to be the only one that's located in a rural area, in a green land designation, in a significant natural heritage feature.

We are concerned with the point raised by this Councillor, about there being no business case. And we actually suspect that when the business case is prepared, it will be prepared on this site alone, and won't be on a comparison with other sites. And so you will have no idea, whether you have the best bang for the buck or not, because you'll have a single business purpose justifying a site that's already been predetermined.

My clients urge you to locate this facility in an urban industrial area, where it belongs.

Thank you very much.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Mr. White, for your presentation. Are there any questions of clarification from County Council?

Councillor French.

Councillor French: Actually, Mr. White, the one point that you bring up. Sometimes we do try and put lipstick on pigs.

David White: I was going to use that term. I didn't think it was appropriate. Thank you very much for-

Councillor French: Anyway, it would probably, in your opinion, probably more appropriate to call it ... Even the first name was kind of polite, A Material Management Facility. Probably should've been called a Waste Management Facility and Organics Processing Facility, would that be more appropriate, in your estimation?

David White: It's not a major point in my presentation, but I think that would be a more honest a name.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Are there any questions or comments from Council? Seeing none. If you could pass your presentation on, and thank you very much for being here. Up next, is Nick and Lynda Van Casteren. I don't know if Mr. White was doing your presentation.

David White: I was speaking on their behalf.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Okay. Thank you very much.

Okay. We'll move forward to Gerald Morgan. If Gerald Morgan could come down.

Good afternoon, Gerald. If you could give your full name and address, that would be great.

Gerald Morgan: My name is Gerald Morgan, 1284 Flos Road 3 East, Phelpston.

I have two children. They're very concerned about the economics of this province and where this province is going, financially. A lot of kids are not making much money these days, but the province keeps on spending. And Simcoe County keeps on spending. And with very little regard for what's going to happen in the future. Are we going to go the way of Greece or Portugal or one of those countries? I don't know. There's a lot of people saying, financially, we're going to be in trouble. We should think about that before we go ahead, and spend money that we don't even know what the end cost is going to be.

With that, I concur with everything that's said before me, by everyone. And I hope that the County Council will consider all the points that have been made. Thanks very much.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Mr. Morgan. Are there any questions for clarification from Council?

Councillor French. For clarification.

Councillor French: Mr. Morgan, I'd like for you to come back for a second. The only reason I'm calling you back Mr. Morgan is quite concerned about what's happening and I give him kudos for creativity. He came in some time ago, with a bunch of crayons and drawings and that. And maybe you'd like to share some of your thoughts you had of property west of this location. You might as well share it with County Council, because you came and kind of outlined it and drew it for me.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Councillor French does it have anything to do with the public meeting?

Councillor French: Yes it does.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Okay.

Councillor French: I think it does.

Okay. Mr. Morgan?

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

For clarification.

Gerald Morgan:

I made an appointment with Mayor French about two months ago. I was concerned that this was absolutely the wrong place to put this, in the Freele Forest. It's terrible. There's wetlands there that will never be recovered if they put this in.

I went in and I talked to Mayor French and I said, "What about this Bertram Drive?" A lot of you folks may not ... It's called Bertram Drive Industrial Park. It's just south of me, it's right on 27 Highway, there's a right turning lane there. It'd be easy to put in stop lights, and things like that. I think that it would be more of a ... Did you guys ever consider putting it in there? I'm addressing these fellas here.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Through the Chair; did you want to answer, in the front row?

Project
Consultant:

Through the Chair. Yes, there were some sites in and around that. I don't know specifically if there was in that block, but there were around that industrial park, certainly, yes.

Gerald Morgan:

So you know where I'm talking about.

Project
Consultant:

Yes.

Gerald Morgan:

Okay. Mayor French, he understood very well what I was talking about. I've lived there nearly 40 years, or over 40 years, right next to that. I think that industrial ... Things like this should be put in an industrial site. That's been said before, I'll say it again.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Okay.

Gerald Morgan:

Thank you.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Thank you, sir. Are there any other questions from Council? Thank you. Our next speaker is John Orange. If John Orange could come down, that would be great.

Councillor Leduc.

Councillor Leduc:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just out of curiosity, how many more speakers have we got? I have to leave soon for a doctor's appointment, so I was just wondering.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Well, there's three after this one, for sure. And then we'll ask if there's anyone else that has to speak, at that time. At least I know, if you get up, I know that you're gone. Thanks.

Say your name and address again.

John Orange: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is John Orange, I'm a resident of 9 Pinehurst Lane in Minesing. Just up the back here.

I have written a sentiment and comments, in response to this proposed amendment, I won't discuss them at length. Many of them duplicate what you've already heard this morning, which I fully support. There are two issues, I think, that I'd like to emphasize. One, being, the financial planning side of this. There are two major issues that I'd like to address.

One, being, the financial aspects. After the Hillsdale public information meeting, I did write to Council, or to, sorry, this County Staff. And raised the issue of site selection, the business plan, which didn't seem to be very viable, and received comments on that. But, the third point that I raised with them was, the use of County Forest. And how it seemed to be a repurposing of the County Forest, since five of the six short listed sites were designated as County Forest. I didn't receive a reply, as to whether or not this was official policy to use the County Forest as a landbank for future projects. And I haven't heard any policy statement to that effect.

My wife and I moved to Springwater about four years ago. And one of the factors that influenced the choice of house, was the fact that there was a large tract of County Forest at the end of the street. And, if you look at the signs on that forest, it is for recreation use. If you look at Google Maps it has trails through it. And it seems to provide a safeguard against encroachment by development or other uses. So it made it a very desirable location.

I was particularly sensitive about this, because we lived for 32 years before then, in Oakville. And in Oakville, when we moved in there, we found a map from 1980 that showed the area north of Oakville as Greenbelt, designated Greenbelt. The first incursion into that Greenbelt was the establishment of a regional office facility. That was followed by a vehicle maintenance depot. In doing that, they converted what was thriving businesses, trail rides and the like, they were out of business because of the encroachment of these, what were basically urban facilities.

The encroachment continued, and it was led by the region, ironically one of the major features is a waste management site, that is located on the boarder of Milton and Oakville. Right across from the golf course, that I used to enjoy, was known as the Smelly Nine, because it ran alongside the road where the composting facility was. And when the wind was in the wrong direction, your valued client, who you've taught to play golf, is subjected to the overdose from that establishment. We gradually saw that Greenbelt disappear as urban sprawl. And it was led by the region.

When I did my due diligence before buying the property here, I did of course, look at what the plans were for these areas. And if I had gone to the website, on the forestry

section, I'd have seen a statement from Simcoe County that, and if I can quote, "These forests provide a multitude of environmental, social, and economic benefits to the county. Including protection of wildlife habitat, water resources, public education, recreation, scientific research, and the production of wood products"

I don't see anything in there about waste management, or industrial uses. I, as a concerned purchaser, put my face in the fact that the County had a policy. With respect to the forest, it provided a facility and this made it a desirable place to live. Now, I find that in fact, it seem that Council simply considers these forest tracts to be potential sites for future industrial activity. And if that is the case, I think they should candid about it, I think they should put that out, and I think that people should be made aware that, that is the intended policy.

The other point I'd like to raise, which I've gone into more detail in my submission, follows on, from the previous speaker, about the use of adjacent property, or the industrial site.

In my so-called retirement, I do some mentoring at Georgian College at the Henry Bernick Centre. And in that position, I see a large number of small businesses, wanting to grow. I see new business, wanting to start. And what they need is an incubator, they need support. Many of those industries, and I can think of three in particular, relate to waste management.

So, it seems to me, looking from that perceptive, that this facility, which I think majority people agree, is desirable in the right location, could form an anchor tenant for an industrial, an environmental technologies industrial park. It would provide [inaudible] for these enterprises. I could provide an incubator centre. It would attract new business, an expanding business into the area. And the industrial park that, I believe it was Mr. Morgan mentioned, would be an ideal location. You would start to generate a centre of excellence in emerging technologies, right in the centre of Simcoe County, that would attract new businesses, career opportunities, employment opportunities.

When considering the proposal, I would ask Council to, perhaps, be a little bit more visionary, show a little bit more leadership, and consider whether this facility couldn't be built with a better end, to the benefit of all of us, and not simply converting one environmental resource into another. Thank you very much.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Thank you, Mr. Orange, for your presentation. Are there any questions of clarification from County Council? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

Our next speaker is Cindy Mercer. If Cindy Mercer's here, if you could come down, that would be great.

Thank you. If you could state your name and address for the record.

Cindy Mercer: Good afternoon. My name is Cindy Mercer, and I live at 1601 Rainbow Valley Road East, and that's in Phelpston.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Cindy Mercer: Thank you members of Council. I appreciate the opportunity. Sorry.

Thank you members of Council. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today, on this very important subject. I fully support, diverting organics and constructing a waste facility within our own borders. I very strongly disagree with County of Simcoe's decision to place such a facility in one of our County owned forests.

I have been an active part of this process. I have attended public information sessions during the siting process in various communities. I did not attend these meetings in support of one forest, I was there showing my support for all our County Forests. Not to my surprise, large numbers of people were there with the same concerns.

All of us here today, are participating in what will be a very critical part of our County Forest history. Amending the official plan to build the ERRC in the Freele Forest, sets a clear precedence, and demonstrates a lack of value placed on the services that nature provides. It also strays greatly from the County's current Forest Management Plan. We cannot simply plant our way out of the damage that will be caused by allowing industrial development in our precious forests. I will not stand by and be party to allowing these forests to needlessly fall. I am one of many who will proudly and tirelessly continue efforts to see the preservation of our County Forests.

The official plan enforces a strict governance, and this governance applies to the Freele Forest the same as it applies to the surrounding properties in the area. These tight restrictions were clearly demonstrated to my family, when we applied for severance for our family, on our property next to the Freele Forest. We were refused by the Ontario Municipal Board, because it did not meet the Official Plan. Developing our Green space, to build an organics processing facility, plus a truck servicing facility, plus a materials management facility, with intended expansion to a full materials recycling facility, does not meet the Official Plan.

The County of Simcoe should be modeling the very behavior that the Official Plan expects of the general public. I am strongly opposed to this amendment, and I ask that Council not approve this Official Planned Amendment.

Thank you.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall: Thank you, Ms. Mercer. And at this time, I'll ask Council; are there any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

Our next presenter is Gerald Hamalock. If you're here, if you could come down, that would be great. One last call for Gerald Hamalock.

Our next speaker then will be Sharon Steinmiller. If you could come down, that would be great. Good afternoon, Sharron. If you could once again, state your name and address for the record.

Sharon
Steinmiller:

Sharron Steinmiller. 2826 Horseshoe Valley Road West.

I have absolutely nothing to add to what everybody has said. I would just like a show of hands, from all of Council, how many would like to live where we live. We'll sell you our property.

I don't think you are even considering the effect this is having on all of us. We have to live with it. The excessive traffic, which we are already dealing with every weekend. It's bumper to bumper from the 400 Extension right to 27. We can't even get our driveway half the time. The effect that's going to happen, with all these trucks, the noise, the pollution. I don't think you've even thought of it. It isn't an industrial area. You've approved for homes to go in on Gill Road. A lot of homes. That's extra traffic too.

What about our water supply? How is this going to affect our water supply? You can't tell me that it isn't going to, because it will. Sugar-coat it all you want, it is going to affect us in the future. Find an industrial site to put it on. It doesn't belong where you want to put it. This is very emotional for all of us, because it's affecting our lives, our way of living.

And I'd like to know too. The evaluation of our properties is going to go down, there's nothing that can change that. Are you going to reimburse us? Are you going to buy our properties at today's value? Because five years down the road, we won't be able to give it away. Nobody's going to want to live with it.

I know it's the old saying, "Not in my backyard" well, we don't want it either. There is industrial places to put it. Find a place to put it. We don't want it. Period.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Well, thank you for your presentation Sharron. At this time, I'll ask County Council if there's any questions or comments for clarification. Seeing none. Thank you very much.

We went through the presenters so far that have put their name down. At this time is there anyone from the audience, from the gallery, that hasn't spoke that wishes to be on today's agenda?

Going to call a second time. Is there anyone else that wishes to speak on today's agenda, if you could put your hand and stand.

A third, and final call, for anyone to come forward at this time.

Seeing that there is no more questions, are there any questions for clarification from County Council.

Councillor French.

Councillor French: I know that our public planning meetings usually have a fairly extensive report on what are the comments and those kind of things. And here, there doesn't seem to be anything on the agenda. When is that going to happen, because I know it's all available when we have a public meeting, the comments from all the agencies and that, so people know what to talk about, in case they actually have another question.

Is this just the way County does its public meetings? I'd like clarification on that.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: I believe, after this meeting everything will be posted on the website. All the questions and comments and then we'll come back as whole, after we get a full report. And vote at that time.

Yes, sir. Go ahead.

Councillor French: Just as a follow-up. I find that odd, because there's a number of presenters here, maybe if they would've read some of the other comments, maybe it would've kind of perked new questions. We see it after the meeting, rather than before. Because I know we invite people to provide comments in advance of the public meeting, and also after the public meeting and put it on the record.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: There is no decision made today though. Those will all come forward, shortly, in a package of probably common questions and common answers, and then from there it'll be up to us as a body to come up with a decision.

Councillor French: Yeah, but with due respect, this is no different than our public meetings, and we don't make a decision there either. It doesn't come up until our following Council meeting for making a decision. I just find the process odd. Thank you.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Any other questions from Council.

Councillor Little.

Councillor Little: Yeah, I'm just looking for clarification on one of the speakers, talked about the setbacks here, I believe one of our consultants, I heard a different number. I think

one of the speakers mentioned, maybe, 100 meter setback. The setback wasn't as far back as ... And I'm just wanting clarification from the consultant team.

What are the setbacks here, please?

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you. If you could answer that question.

Consultant: Thank you, Chair. So the setbacks, we're trying to maximize those from the sensitive receptors. From the property line on the west I believe it's about 110 meters. And then from the east it's even more than that, just shy of 200 I believe.

And then to the nearest sensitive receptor from the actual facility footprint, we're getting up close to about 500 meters.

Councillor Little: Okay, thank you. That's different from what I heard then. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Councillor Cox.

Councillor Cox: I just want to make sure that all the questions were asked today. I know they're being taken down. Are not just going to ... I'd like to know that they're answers to them. Do questions about the snowmobile trail, the expanse of it. Why didn't we look at Bertram? Those types of questions, we'll get answers on all of those?

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Correct.

Did you want to answer that question? Follow it up? One of the consultants.

Councillor Cox: Because there were a lot of good questions that people had, and I just would like answers.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: For sure. Nathan Westendorp please.

Councillor Cox: I just wanted to make sure we're going to answer all the questions that went through it.

Nathan Westendorp: Through the Chair. We will be collecting all of the written comments that we've had, as well as the oral submissions that we've had, and then we will be summarizing them in a table, for consideration and presentation to Council before the meeting where the decision was made. For County Council to consider all the comments we've received, as well as the responses accordingly.

Councillor Cox: Okay. An example would be the question with the man who's breeding horses. Will we be able to have those answers to that? I'm sure he's handed in a piece of paper with those questions on them.

- Nathan Westendorp:
Councillor Cox: We'll be looking into the best way that we can provide answers-
Okay. I just wanted to make sure that, they've come here they've asked the questions. We should get all the answers. Okay, thank you.
- Deputy Warden Dowdall:
Thank you. Any other questions or comments from Council?
Councillor Allen.
- Councillor Allen:
Thank you, Mr. Chair.
There was reference to an update on the archeological findings, and what has happened with respect to that. I thought you were going to refer to it later, it was going to be later in this presentation, that's one question.
The other question is, further to what I said about the financial and budgeting piece. What's the updated timeframe for council receiving something substantive on that front?
- Deputy Warden Dowdall:
Moving forward. I don't know if who you'd want to ... Did you want to answer the timetable or Rob [McCullough], if you could, that would be great.
- Rob McCullough:
Thank you, and through you Mr. Chair. Staff will be preparing a report, as you know we're working with Ernst and Young on preliminary business case for the organics processing facility. We're also working on an update with the known cost to provide the materials management facility. And staff will be, through the spring, will be providing an updated report to Council to provide that new timeline.
- Deputy Warden Dowdall:
And could you speak to the archeological, as well?
- Brian Dermody:
Certainly. Through the Chair. The archeological assessment is a staged process. They've completed stages one through three, and essentially those go in increasing level of detail. The stage three report has been submitted, and that's based on detailed digs of the identified site within the property. That's been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport. And then, stage four can take a number of different avenues, and the one that the County is currently going forward with, is protection of that archeological find, certainly during construction, in terms of fencing it off and identifying that area. The alternate to that, would be to dig it up and to do a full assessment that way. Protection in-situ is what will happen for stage four of that.
- Deputy Warden Dowdall:
Thank you. Any other comments for clarification?
Councillor Keffer.

Councillor Keffer: Thank you, Chair. Just a question about process. This is a County initiated Official Plan Amendment. I've never been to a public meeting for a County initiated Official Plan Amendment. Does the lower tier have any say in this amendment? And this because, it's County owned property that they can go ahead and ask for an Official Planned Amendment? Or is it because, they have the County Official Plan, which is, as far as the Province is concerned, the County looks after planning decisions on behalf of the Province?

Just clarification about where we are, and where the lower tier is with this.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Councillor Keefer. And once again, I'll ask Nathan to come forward.

Nathan

Westendorp: Through the Chair. It is a little complex. Right now, we're dealing with a County Official Plan, and the amendment that's required to it.

The land use that's being proposed today, requires an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw at the local level, the Local Official Plan, and the County Official Plan, because County Council is the only body that can adopt that change to the County document. That's what we're here for today.

There will be another public meeting for the Local Official Planned Amendment, and the Local Zoning Bylaw Amendment, I believe that's scheduled for June 19th. That's the local municipality's process that they will run through concurrently. And then, both Councils will consider the applications accordingly.

If a decision is made, to approve this by County Council, that decision is then brought to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for consideration. And their ultimate decision on what to do with the County Official Planned Amendment.

If Springwater Council makes a decision in favour of this facility, the adopted Official Plan Amendment at the local level comes to the County for approval. So there's multiple decision points as we go along through the process.

Hopefully that clarifies.

Councillor. Keffer: Yes. Thank you.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor French, did you have a comment?

Councillor French: Yes, actually I had a comment.

I think Councillor Keffer brings up a good point. It should be very clear, that under our Official Plan right now this facility wouldn't be allowed. Would be a comment.

And then my question is ... I gotta go backwards a little bit, but it is related. And maybe we weren't paying enough attention at our Township level at the time. Did we not remove some forested land to create the Moonstone Garage also? Can someone answer that first of all? Then I'll make a final comment.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: I would look to Debbie for that comment.

Debbie Korolnek: Yes, there were some forested lands removed for that construction of the County Garage.

Councillor French: And so the follow up is, and I have to compliment whoever the presenter was, because sometimes we get caught up in it. We are on a slippery slope, so we seem to be identifying forests as lands to develop for municipal services, and I do think we should really pause for reflection. Thank you.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Thank you. Are there any comments?

Councillor Clarke.

Councillor Clarke: Maybe on procedure, and it was mentioned earlier. I know this is an Official Plan Amendment, that we're in control of, but any time a developer comes to a municipality, looking for an Official Plan Amendment, the public meetings are at the municipal level first. And then from there, if the local municipality approves it, it goes up to County for the Official Plan Amendment to be approved at a County Level. Or in the case of the Municipality disapproves, it all goes off to an OMB.

And I'm just wondering why we're starting at County with the Official Plan Approval of an Amendment, prior to starting at the Municipal level, which is how most policies would be. And from there, it's approved and it travels up, up the chain, because when it comes to the zoning, if we approve this Official Plan Amendment, when it comes to the zoning there's really no power left to the local municipality. It's already in your Official Plan, you really can't object to something that's already within your Official Plan. Which is why you would start with the Amendment at the municipal level, and only after it's been dealt with there, either through approval or an OMB process, would it ever come to this floor. So I'm wondering why we leapfrogged over the municipality.

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Okay. Once again, I'll ask Nathan Westendorp to come up.

Nathan Westendorp: Through the Chair. That is a typical process for a lot of developments in the County of Simcoe. A lot of developments don't require, especially if they're in designated areas in the County Official Plan, they don't require a County Official Plan Amendment. The only reason why the County Public Meeting is going on, is because it also requires the County Official Plan Amendment.

And to your point of there needs to be that trickle-down effect.

That's why the County Official Plan Public Meeting is going first. Because the other one's follow suit. There's a requirement for all the documents to be in steps. That's why the largest, the upper tier document is going first. So that this is considered, and then in June, the Township will consider their document, and everything is going in step with each other.

But, typically those developer initiated Official Plan Amendments, they require approval by the County, but they don't require the County to change its own Official Plan.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

Thank you. I saw another-
Councillor Allen.

Councillor Allen:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm trying to reconcile that answer with the order that occurred, with respect to the 20,000 Allocation when Springwater Council approved it first. And then it was never brought forward to County. I'd be interested to hear comments to that. But my main point with this question is, we heard earlier that the total viability business case assessment by Ernst and Young will be brought forward. I would hope that would be available to the House and to Springwater, well in advance of the June 19th meeting, and in advance of this House making any decisions, with respect to the Official Plan. Because they need that information to make a decision.

Nathan
Westendorp:

Sorry, I'm not clear on what the specific question is.

Deputy Warden
Dowdall:

I think it was a comment.

Are there any other questions from the County Council?

No. Seeing none.

I'm going to need a mover and seconder to receive and refer all the submissions to Staff today.

Moved by Councillor Milne and Seconded by Councillor Clarke. That the submissions filled on May 9th, 2017 Public Meeting regarding the Proposed County of Simcoe Official Plan Amendment, be received and referred to Staff.

Any comments?

Councillor French: Actually, just a quick clarification. We submitted, some time ago, a resolution from our Local Council. Do we need to submit that again, as part of the planning process? Or is that being taken into consideration? I just want to make sure we don't-

Deputy Warden Dowdall: That you're on the docket?

Dowdall:

Councillor French: Yes. Because, we sent it March 2nd, 2016. And there was a number of criteria requested. I just want to know, does that form part of the public comments, or should we resubmit it?

Deputy Warden Dowdall: Nathan what would be the best process?

Dowdall:

Encourage to resubmit. Thank you.

Any other comments? Seeing none.

All in favor? That's carried.

I'd like to thank everyone for being here today, and your participation in the public meeting. Certainly some great comments and very passionate speeches today. We want you to make sure that you, if you wish to submit comments after this meeting, you may do so in writing to the County Clerk, or by email at ERRC@Simcoe.ca

Thank you very much. And may I please have a motion to adjourn this Public Meeting?

Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cox. That the May 9th, 2017 Public Meeting of County Council be adjourned at 12:38. All in favor? That would be carry. Thank you very much.