

Monday, September 12th, 2016

City of Hamilton
Attn: Mayor and Members of Council
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON – L8P 4Y5

Attn: Mayor and Members of City Council

Re: September 6th City of Hamilton Planning Meeting and September 14 City of Hamilton Council Meeting,

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

This letter has been written on behalf of the Morelli Family. It represents our collective position on a recent decision by the City of Hamilton Planning Committee of September 6th in regards to the Book Road West lands. The Book Road West lands includes our family farm, the Morelli Farm as it is known to us. Our farm is approximately 57 acres and this property has been in our family for many years. Our late cousin Bernie Morelli, whom was a decorated member of the City of Hamilton Council (Ward 3) for over 22 years, worked hard and was dedicated to our great City of Hamilton. We want you to know that the decision of Planning Committee of September 6th would not only affect the people of Book Road West but the City as a whole, including those of Bernie's old east end Ward 3.

We are appalled, angry and frustrated by what happened as this was contrary to everything we were told and all the work we have done to date. While not all of us were in attendance on September 6th, we were able to view a video and watch how our rights as Hamiltonians were dismissed as unimportant. The Book Road West lands has approximately 120 landowners that are made up of farmers and small businesses, who own their own land, in some cases for generations. Like the Morelli farm, we have worked hard all of our lives, supporting our community and paid our taxes. All we ever wanted is to be treated fairly and heard. Our opinion on our land should be important and included as part of any decision by City Council.

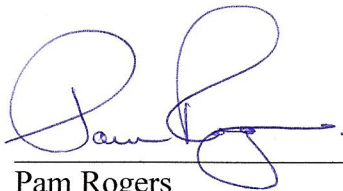
Our group made a detailed presentation to Planning Committee on August 9th introducing the Book Road West Landowner's Group. That presentation was clear and fact based and needs to be re-reviewed by all Members of Council. We have read the City staff report that was submitted for approval at the Planning Committee meeting of September 6th and felt confident that staff and Councillors had NOT changed their previous position of December 2015. For the record, City Council's position on this matter was NOT to include our lands in the Greenbelt, which is very clear in the public record from December 2015. And then, to our surprise, Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, who isn't a member of the Planning Committee, makes a speech on what he felt was enough information for the Planning Committee to pass a motion that supports putting our lands

into the Greenbelt. We were very specific about our lands mistakenly put in the Greenbelt by the Province as per our August 9th presentation to Planning Committee. We pointed out that the official position of Council and the recommendation of staff was that the Book Road West Lands were not recommended to go into the Greenbelt. There was no technical, scientific or planning argument presented, just the opinion of one Councillor, which did not represent our family's interests at all.

What is the most difficult to understand is why the City of Hamilton would be making such permanent decisions on lands ahead of its Municipal Comprehensive Review. Based on the information we have been provided, the City should be allowing for this MCR to be completed first to ensure that not only the Book Road West land area is considered but the entire City of Hamilton is considered in the overall planning of any growth in the municipality. We understand that there is a huge amount of growth allocated for Hamilton and if the City is making major decisions on large lands ahead of the MCR, why even conduct the MCR if decisions on land supply are already being made before the study is even started.

We are fully aware that the zoning for our farm may not change for a long time, but putting the Book Road West lands into the Greenbelt robs us of our right to future with our land. We urge you to reconsider your position on this matter and please, at the very least, defer the approval of the minutes from the September 6th Planning Committee to the next meeting to give us and many others the opportunity to be heard. Please, don't deny us our democratic right and give us a chance to let our voice be heard.

Your sincerely,



Pam Rogers

on behalf of the Morelli Family

CC:

Pam & Paul Rogers
Karen & George Papalazarou
Jim Morelli & Connie Cook
Tom & Carol Morelli
John & Jenny Morelli