

From: Deborah Martin

Sent: January 12, 2020 7:05 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-committee Report

Dear Mayor, City Council and Ms Paparella

I am emailing regarding the forest lands area known as 65 Frances Ave. or Turtle Ponds Property. Based on a report from the Natural Heritage Planning committee and under the Planning and Economic Development Department it is important to state that the 65 Frances property has been and is a Core Area within the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (UHOP). It is considered an important part of the Natural Heritage System which includes the property's identified biodiversity, its productivity, and its ecological and hydrological functions. The Core Area has been identified as the Community Beach Ponds ESA. Located in this forest is woodland, wildlife habitat, wetland and a watercourse. Protecting this biodiversity and keeping our tree canopy is another purpose for and reason to keep this wooded area and wetlands in their present state. It is a designated environmentally sensitive area.

Major flooding has already occurred in our area and the presence of this woodland area has provided much needed stormwater management due to a tributary and wetland. It would be hazardous to have this feature obstructed, or worse, removed.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has stated that a fair market value of this land, based on previous sales of similar land in Hamilton, is in the range of \$24,000 at approximately \$6,000 per acre. With our city reserves and taxpayer funding Hamilton City council needs to vote to do the right thing. Please provide the Public School Board with an expression of intent, from the city, to purchase this land.

Thank you for your attention and concern in this very important matter.

Respectfully,
Debbie Martin