

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Subject Line: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hello. My name is Alexandra Kamphuis and I'm writing this letter to you about something that is very important to me; the forest. Specifically, the one that runs between Frances Avenue and Church Street. The one you're planning to sell to a builder who you know is going to cut it down for superfluous housing.

First off, forests as a whole are important, as I'm sure you know. I find it hypocritical that you, as a school board, teach children about the endless flaws of deforestation only to sell off your forest to some guy with connections and a half-baked plan for cash. Not only do trees exchange the carbon dioxide exhaled by humans and other animals for more breathable oxygen, but they also provide a habitat and home to many forest-dwelling creatures such as birds and squirrels. If housing is built there instead, where are the animals going to go? Nowhere good, that's for sure. The forest is the only large green space in this area. It also houses foxes, which, if driven out of the woodlands, are probably going to eat people's pets. Neither of us want our cats and dogs and, I don't know, fish eaten, so what I propose to you is that you leave the forest alone. It's not that hard.

Secondly, the forest is unique in its beauty. Look it up and you'll find a thousand cheesy quotes about the serenity of walking between the trees, and for good reason. Imagine waking up every morning for 14 years and seeing the sun rise over the trees, watching the trees stretch their leafy branches towards the endless sky, all the while backlit by a pastel blend of blues, pinks and oranges as birds chirp and cats purr in the background. Now imagine instead waking up to the sound of hammering and drilling and some guy in an ugly fluorescent orange vest shouting and looking outside to brown as far as the eye can see. One of these is the superior option and we both know which one.

Finally, being a school board, it stands to reason that you would care about the future of the next generation. You're not doing this for the cash, you're doing it to get rid of the land as a quick, easy, and short-term solution. How do you think me and all the other young people living in this area will feel when we have to move away soon because the value of our house is going down? When we spend years of our lives protesting and lobbying and revolting and writing letters to the people in charge of our education in the hopes that the planet isn't on fire by the time we're 30? When we tell stories to our grandchildren (if we even get that old) about the forest that used to be behind our houses, abundant with greenery and wildlife, that was destroyed by the big bad school board? You have a chance to prove your values and teach children an exemplary lesson on how to plan for the future and think about the next generation. Take advantage of it.

If you sell this land, not only will you be helping to destroy an irreplaceable piece of nature and kill the animals and plants that live there, but you will also be proving that the pillars of value that you hold your board upon are made of nothing more than sand. Thank you for your time, and I hope you will take this letter into consideration before making your final decision on whether to sell the land.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex', written in a cursive style.

Alexandra Kamphuis