

Pilon, Janet

Subject: BOOK ROAD (RIGHTLY) RETURNED TO WHITEBELT STATUS**From:** Paul Parente**Sent:** January 31, 2023 10:56 AM**To:** Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>; Ward 2 <ward2@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 12 Office <ward12@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>**Subject:** BOOK ROAD (RIGHTLY) RETURNED TO WHITEBELT STATUS

Mayor Horvath and Councillors

January 31, 2023

RE: BOOK ROAD (RIGHTLY) RETURNED TO WHITEBELT STATUS

Recently I read of a Councillor wanting the City of Hamilton to go on the record as opposing the Province's Greenbelt amendments. I disagree with wasting City time and tax dollars on constantly fighting the Province on this and other housing issues. But if the City is going to continue down that road, I would like to inform Councillors of the specifics of the lands on Book Road. Please take time to learn the actual facts into how Book Road was illegitimately and unjustly designated "Greenbelt" some ten (10) years after the Greenbelt was formed:

In 2005 when the Greenbelt was established, the lands on Book Road, Ancaster were not included in the Greenbelt Plan and remained as what is known as Whitebelt. Shortly after that, the group of landowners along Book Road hired planners, engineers, and lawyers to begin to set meetings with the City with ideas to establish a complete community. These landowners spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on studies to support their proposals that would design a neighbourhood in an environmentally conscious manner, taking into account all the municipal and provincial policies and guidelines prescribed. Then unexpectedly, in 2016, the City of Hamilton in tandem with the Provincial Liberal government, blindsided these landowners and arbitrarily changed the Greenbelt borders, arrogating the Book Road lands into the Greenbelt to stop these development plans. Without explanation, the Liberal government and the City labeled Book Road as "Greenbelt" out of thin air. They simply used the term "Greenbelt" to crush this project.

Where was the MEDIA OUTCRY on the 2016 changing of the Greenbelt border?

Where was the concern of DEMOCRACY when the rules changed in the middle of the game on these generational landowners and taxpayers?

Where was the outrage with regard to these landowners' RIGHTS and why were they ignored?

Why was it OK to change the Greenbelt border without public discussion in 2016, but some feel it is an outrage in 2023?

For the record, Book Road lands are not Prime Agriculture, and all those landowners are on record as opposed and furious with the idea of their lands being deemed "Greenbelt" without any justification and their rights being ignored. The decision to advance Book Road lands to Greenbelt was strictly political. Thankfully the current provincial government has corrected this gross injustice and restored the Book Road lands to their original Whitebelt status. The Greenbelt in Ancaster is actually restored to its original 2005 boundary!

I hope this information is helpful to you. If any Councillor wishes to learn more about the history of Book Road, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards
Paul A. Parente