

**From:** Brian McHattie

**Sent:** April 23, 2025 9:06 PM

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**Subject:** Re Item 8.1 - Hamilton Drive Development - April 29, 2025 Planning Committee - Please Include These Comments in the Agenda

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Dear Clerk and Members of the Planning Committee,

I am writing to ask you to respectfully deny the application known as Rosewood Estates to build 17 houses in a Significant Woodland, a Core Area in the City's Natural Heritage System..

There are a number of specific reasons why this development should not advance:

- As you know this will result in the loss of 632 mature trees (including many "heritage trees") in a Significant Woodland.
- The woodland also qualifies as Significant Wildlife Habitat, providing Bat Maternity Roosting habitat. A total of 30 candidate trees were identified and three species of bats noted as "Rare" or "Special Concern" were present.
- Field work for the Environmental Impact Statement was undertaken from 2014-2018 and

should now be re-done as the importance of the woodland has increased in the interim. Stale-dated field work is not good planning.

- The Secondary Plan is also stale-dated and needs to be updated with new natural heritage information
- In their March 18, 2021 comments, ESAIEG asked that restoration occur instead of development.
- In their comments Natural Heritage planning staff said that an Official Plan Amendment would be required in addition to a Zoning Amendment given the impact on the Core Area from tree removal. They also stated that this a good quality Black Cherry forest.

When this development was first proposed, the Hamilton policy scheme was much different. In the past several years, Council has passed the Climate Change Action Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan - the loss of mature trees is clearly contrary to both plans.

So much habitat has been lost over past decades - now is the time to say no to development that further decimates our Natural Heritage System and instead begin the process of restoring habitat and the Natural Heritage System.

Brian McHattie