

Robicheau, Vanessa

To: Taylor, Sheree L.
Subject: RE: Agenda Item 6.4 - Application for an Amendment to Glanbrook Zoning By-Law No. 464 to Permit a Place of Worship for Lands Located at 3075 Tisdale Road, Glanbrook (PED13210) (Ward 11)

From: W. den Hollander
Sent: January 10, 2014 4:15 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Johnson, Brenda
Subject: Agenda Item 6.4 - Application for an Amendment to Glanbrook Zoning By-Law No. 464 to Permit a Place of Worship for Lands Located at 3075 Tisdale Road, Glanbrook (PED13210) (Ward 11)

Dear Clerk and Esteemed Council Members,

In this way I would like to draw your special attention to the application to permit the Trinity Canadian Reformed Church of Glanbrook to build its own place of worship at Tisdale Road, a property that will provide a central location for worship, congregational life, and outreach into the community.

Since November 2012 my wife and I have been members of the Trinity CanRC. I am a retired pastor of the CanRC at Toronto. Since 1984 I have ministered in three congregations: Winnipeg, MB (1984-1989), Orangeville, ON (1989-1996), and Toronto, ON (1996-2012). Hence from experience I know how important it is for a congregation to have its own permanent place of worship: it becomes a beacon of light in the community, a hub of activities for the congregation, and a place of refuge for those who are troubled. With its central location at Tisdale Road the congregation can organize its programs and projects to make itself known to the surrounding community; for the congregation it becomes a focal point and central location at which worship, Bible Study, Catechism teaching, Instructional programs, conferences, youth rallies, etc. can be organized and held; at the same time, in the midst of this broken world with its variety of miseries and troubles, the church building becomes a centre for people to find help, support, counsel, and activities that provide solutions, attractions, and resources to those in need!

From its institution in 2001 our son and his family have been active members of this congregation, hence firsthand I know of the challenges the congregation has handled. It has progressed and moved from place to place in a unified and exemplaric way. It has been, and continues to be a vibrant congregation, very active and outgoing, hospitable and receptive, able very much to provide the above advantages and blessings to its congregation and community! In the time of our membership we have experienced the congregation to be a living example of what the church of Jesus Christ ought to be in the midst of this dark world: a light on a standard! The congregation has shown its health and growth in its activities, also to provide Christian education for its youth. One of the strong pursuits during the years of its existence has been the establishment of a school society, which in 2017 hopes to occupy the school building that's presently used for the congregational activities of Trinity CanRC. Hence, permission for the Trinity congregation to build its own permanent facility will also facilitate and stimulate the continued activities for Christian education for the youth of the congregation. This, in turn, will be a strong stimulus for others to come and join the congregation, necessitating a better and larger place of worship and congregational life. This will not only sustain its present population but will also stimulate continued growth and increase in numbers! All in all, its own place of worship and permanent location for congregational activities will be a source of life, health, and stimulus to the members of the congregation residing in the area around the Tisdale property, and a motivational source for community enhancement and upbuilding!

We wish you to know as well that a living and vibrant congregational life also includes a keen and knowledgeable attention for the work and well-being of the city and environment in which it resides. In its weekly worship services those in authority over us are remembered in congregational prayers regularly. Also the work of you, councilors, and other officials in the community, province, and country, is brought before the throne of God, on Whose blessing you depend as you carry out the tasks and responsibilities you execute for the well-being of your residents and citizens! May He now also bless you as you consider the application of the Trinity congregation to have its own and permanent place of worship at Tisdale Road.

With pastoral greetings, and sincere regards,

Rev. William den Hollander, Pastor-emeritus