
From: Betty de Groot [REDACTED]
Sent: April 3, 2022 9:30 AM
To: ZZG-COUNCIL
Subject: Request to delegate on April 7th

Follow Up Flag:
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Hello Council,

Please accept this request to delegate at the Regional Council meeting on April 7th. I fear I may have missed a deadline for placing this request, but I was unable to locate info on how to do this until this morning. I am sure it should have been an easy process, however being busy and having many urgent issues to attend to (including mental health care), I was unable to focus on this until now. But it is URGENT! Please accept my request and any others that reach you beyond the deadline!

Thank you.

Betty de Groot
Bolton, ON
[REDACTED]

From: Betty de Groot [REDACTED]
Sent: April 3, 2022 12:26 PM
To: ZZG-COUNCIL
Subject: Fw: Encouragement as you participate in the April 7th Region of Peel Council meeting

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my apologies... it almost missed you...

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Betty de Groot <betty.degroot@yahoo.ca>
To: annette.groves@caledon.ca <annette.groves@caledon.ca>; ian.sinclair@caledon.ca <ian.sinclair@caledon.ca>; johanna.downey@caledon.ca <johanna.downey@caledon.ca>; coucil@peelregion.ca <coucil@peelregion.ca>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022, 11:40:51 a.m. EDT
Subject: Encouragement as you participate in the April 7th Region of Peel Council meeting

Dear Councillors,
How are you? I am writing out of concern for the upcoming meeting at the Region of Peel, on April 7th, where decisions will be made re: the Official Plan for growth in Peel. I am appealing to the three of you specifically because you sit on this Council and because you've shown clear environmental concern for our Region in the past.

I am very worried that the way things sit now, we'll be locking in sprawl. The proposed highway 413 hasn't even had its Federal Environmental Assessment and yet so much development and planning is going on as if it is a done deal, and as if it is a good, viable and well-thought out commuter option for our area. It is not.

Looking back at the [Land Use Planning and Climate Change Policy Discussion Paper](#), created by the Town of Caledon, the following elements are listed as necessary for mitigating climate change effects:

- Compact neighbourhoods with shops, stores and services within close proximity (15 minute neighbourhood)
- Active transportation centric
- Higher densities to support transit feasibility
- More efficient delivery of public services within close proximity (i.e. fire, school transportation, water etc.)
- Low carbon energy sources, such as district energy more feasible

I do not see enough evidence that these elements have been considered, especially in light of the fact that

"The province is intentionally MAINTAINING exclusionary zoning as part of a strategy to shut down [@Stopsprawlhalt1](#), [@StopSprawlPeel](#), [@EnvHamilton](#), [@StopSprawlYR](#) requests to meet demand for new homes in the "yellow belt", rather than expensive greenfield sprawl." (Phil Pothen, Environmental Defence, found on Twitter).

This means the Region of Peel is going along with continued exclusionary zoning practices, including pushing for single-family homes and allowances for huge energy- and resource-wasteful mansions, and car-centric thinking. This practice does not address the housing crisis, where what is needed is homes. One-size fits all doesn't work: we need a variety of home types: townhouses, multi-story, walk-ups, and all within the current boundaries to increase our population densities (upwards of 90 -100 people per square kilometre, I believe) and increase the likelihood of Metro-Links seeing us as worth the effort of building up the transit infrastructure.

Climate Change means we HAVE to think differently. We absolutely need our Greenbelt and conservation lands protected; we absolutely must maintain the carbon-sequestration capacities of our farmlands and forests to stay intact and to be bolstered by the municipal and provincial incentives for regenerative farming practices. Calling open fields "white belt" as if it is a fresh page ready to be written on, aka developed, is a complete misunderstanding of how these spaces operate. And if Caledon alone is to increase in population by 300,000 people, think about WHO those people are likely to be: Climate Refugees. These people are going to be looking for a safe and sustainable future. They'll be and we'll be needing local food security, provided by those open fields. They'll be looking for affordable homes that will not exacerbate Climate Change outcomes. So they'll be looking for passive energy homes and communities. They'll be looking for affordable and sustainable means of getting around. We'll all be OKAY with transit as opposed to the so-called convenience of personal vehicles, IF the communities we live in are well-served and connected to other communities, and IF the services we require and jobs we hold are within the 15 minute walkable community in which we live. Aging in place means that our seniors will easily be able to participate in the daily social and economic activities of their communities. That cannot happen when sprawl spells out "communities" where the closest store, school or community centre is kilometres from home. Car infrastructure including driveways, parking lots, roads and highways SEPARATE us! We need community centres and parks, corner stores and cafes, and outdoor neighbourhood plazas and .

What else bothers me is that we are not requiring new developments to forego fossil fuel infrastructure. Why should networks of gas pipelines be laid underground in this day and age when we are 100% certain that this is how we exacerbate Climate Change. New technologies such as ground and air-source heat pumps are available now! District heating is beyond the testing phase and has been proven to supply the necessary home- and water-heating capacity in communities around the world. Our children should not be forced to participate in their own demise because of poor and weak decision-making, happening now. The fact that the Region's 30 year plan is a locked in design with such weaknesses is frightening and maddening.

I'm counting on you to slow the process of approval down, so that we can improve the plan NOW.

You, as councillors, must say NO to boundary expansion. You must say YES to creating growth within existing boundaries that address the needs and benefits I've spelled out above. And

please listen also to more eloquent voices who can express these needs with data and research and common sense, such as you'll find in the following resources:

[Does Peel Region know where it's growing? - Environmental Defence](#)



https://environmentaldefence.ca/2021/08/16/how-to-fight-the-big-sprawl-part-1-unlocking-the-uncertainties-in-the-lands-needs-assessment-methodology/?mkt_tok=MTg4LVZEVS0zNjAAAAGDiR7kpQ4eXo2IbT-Y3OjpVD8HHm2k8GrBVL8oAYj-IFLWKxNDbrzXpEHBs_HQpasFLbQoGKJ8GcSaOF7sJtLVjkBUfyOcLTMvrBk2cIeEFRAiIA

(Note this article is Part 1 of 4. Please check all four.)

And one more:

[Why Highway 413 is a Bad Idea - In The Hills](#)



I thank you all for your care and for your time in researching the possibilities we have before us. Please speak to your councillor colleagues about improving the Regional Plan; and even on what our Region can insist on now, from developers, before this plan becomes law.

Sincerely,
Betty de Groot
Bolton, ON