July 13, 2016

Corporation of the Township of East Garafraxa
374028 6th Line
Amaranth, Ontario
L9W 0M6

RE: Application by Long Environmental Consultants Inc. for re-designation and re-zoning of Part Lots 2, 3 & 4, Concession 18, Township of East Garafraxa, Dufferin County (the “Subject Property) to allow the development of an aggregate operation

To Whom it May Concern:

Further to our letter to you dated June 18, 2016 respecting our objection to the above noted application, we wish to take this opportunity to express our requests and concerns more specifically.

We are requesting the following:

1. that the Township not allow additional gravel truck traffic on the 17th Line, East Garafraxa,
2. that the Township enforce current traffic to be limited from Monday to Friday, 6am to 5pm,
3. that the Township not allow gravel truck operations on holidays or weekends (Saturday and Sunday)

Our concerns and reasons for these requests are as follows:

• We, as well as some of the other surrounding residents, have owned our properties for as long as 25 years. Our property values have already been affected by talk of the above noted application. To grant our requests would enable our property values to stabilize and allow us to still enjoy our current quality of life.
• Our home was meant to be our “forever home” until such time that we could no longer maintain it. Since we are self-employed, the value of our residence was part of our retirement package. For the Township to grant the above noted application, it would inherently affect our future.
• We have already had a real estate agent assess our property. They have confirmed that if this rezoning goes forward, our property value will plummet. The follow-up concern to this then, is if we had to sell it, would anyone even want to buy it?
• The above noted application specifies re-zoning of part of lots 2, 3 & 4. Being unable to tell from the map provided by the Township, we are asking the Township to provide specifics on what the boundaries of Lot 4 are and where specifically it would be located on a map.
• We were told that Burnsides are doing a study to increase the size of the 17th Line. We are curious to know the purpose of this study and if there have been any public notices respecting same?
• Will there be a guarantee that our water supply will not be affected? If it is affected, who will supply us and the surrounding residents with funds to dig new wells?
• We were told that a private school applied for operation permits and were denied. While we don’t know the “ins and outs” of the application, the first question that comes to mind is why would a school be denied and a gravel pit be granted? We would certainly have welcomed a school operation over a gravel pit.
• The air quality is another concern, especially if above noted application is approved and together with the possibility of Greenwood’s operations increasing. The air and noise pollution via the trucks and machinery will affect all of us.
• Our road is already a commuter road and as such it is already quite busy. Our concern is with the increase in gravel truck traffic will our safety be adversely affected? Not just our own safety via the comings and goings in our driveways, but we have school buses travelling our road each day. As gravel trucks “fly” down our road already, any increase in the number of trucks will most certainly negatively affect the safety of our children waiting to board the bus and/or unboard the bus.
Natural resources and wildlife is a concern. While there may not be a huge amount, we currently do enjoy the sight of deer, coyote and wild turkeys. If this application goes forward, will the wildlife be forced to relocate? Not being able to enjoy nature such as this, will negatively affect our current quality of life.

As previously mentioned, the speed of the gravel trucks is a huge concern. It appears to us highly unlikely that they travel the current speed limit (80km/hr).

Our garbage pick up is already affected by the current gravel trucks running on our road. If more trucks should be permitted, our garbage pick up will be non-existent. Due to the speed of the trucks and the air currents they produce (as well as natural wind), our garbage does not remain standing on the side of the road. The waste management personnel will not pick it up. We understand that it isn’t their job to pick up strewn garbage, but we have also done our part, placing it where we are supposed too. We pay for this service but don’t currently get to use it on a consistent basis. This is a direct result of gravel trucks. Increasing them, will make the problem worse. It is extremely frustrating.

As we have confirmation from a real estate agent that our property values will plummet if this application goes forward, we are asking the Township if our property taxes will also go down as a result?

An alternative to a gravel pit would be a subdivision in the area. That in itself would put more tax dollars in the hands of the Township than a gravel pit.

At the Township meeting of June 21, 2016, Mr. Long of Long Consultants stated that he would be contacting us respecting our objections. To date, we have not heard anything from him or from any party related to the above noted application. This in itself makes us and some of our surrounding neighbours feel as though our concerns are worth nothing in their eyes. We are therefore asking the Township Council to hear its residents and really take to heart our objections and concerns.

We would greatly appreciate Council feedback and we thank you for taking our concerns and requests into consideration.

Sincerely,

Heleen Kamphuis

John Kamphuis