THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
IN THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 1st, 2011
7:20 p.m.
Council Chambers

1. **ROLL CALL:**

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Dave Szollosy, Councillor    Vikki Bunnik
Suzanne Smoke (left at 9:40 p.m.)    Jennifer Baron
Mark Payne, Vice Chair    Teresa Cline, Chair

The following members were not in attendance with regrets:

Mary Mallany

The following guests were in attendance:

Nick Marchese, Nuovo Construction Inc.
Rob Carnegie, Hunscoott Group Ltd.
Gary Foch, Prudential Renascent Realty Brokerage
Steven Ruminski, Decommissioning Consulting Services Limited
Peter Robertson, ChemSolve
Andrea Brown, Ministry of Environment
Dave Fumerton, Ministry of Environment
Howard Sniatowski, Owner, 23708 Warden Avenue
John Hicks
Debbie Gordon
Peter Strawbridge
Roland Peacock
Philip Wellman

The following Staff members were in attendance:

Karyn Stone, Economic Development Officer
Michele Vandentillaart, Committee Secretary

2. **INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS AND DEPUTATIONS:**

3. **PRESENTATIONS:**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Moved by Jennifer Baron

Seconded by Vikki Bunnik

**RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0037**

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

Carried…

4. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

None.

5. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:**

5.1 Minutes of the meeting held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Moved by Mark Payne

Seconded by Vikki Bunnik

**RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0038**

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

Carried…

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

None.

7. **DEPUTATIONS:**

7.1

8. **PRESENTATIONS:**

8.1 Remediation, Rehabilitation and Revitalization Proposal for 23708 Warden Avenue, Keswick, Ontario (Thane Smelter).

Gary Foch introduced himself and outlined his past experience in the commercial real estate industry.
Mr. Foch introduced the following:

Mr. Rob Carnegie, principal with the company proposing the project and principal of the Mt. Albert pit and the Brown to Green Company; Mr. Nick Marchese, principal of same as above; Mr. Steve Rominski; Mr. Peter Robertson of Chemsolve; Mr. Howard Sinowski; Ms. Andrea Brown and Mr. Dave Fumerton of the Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Foch explained the process of bio-remediation of microbes which are what cleans the contaminated soil. The types of soils requiring remediation could be those from a construction site, shorelines from Lake Simcoe due to boat gasses floating to shore etc, or a gas station. Once the soils are cleaned they are reevaluated and if they require an additional process they will be sent back through for another spray of micro-organisms to ensure the soil meets the appropriate levels.

Rob Carnegie noted that the overall operation of their Mt. Albert pit, which is currently closed, is in the final stages of opening phase 2 and have another meeting this week with the Town of East Gwillimbury and are close to getting their necessary next permit. The soil located at this pit could be clay, silt, or sand and when their company fills in areas they restore them back to farm land and currently have put in over 100,000 loads into the first phase of the Mt. Albert pit. Before any soil is received in their remediation pit, they conduct a preliminary review, then a soil consultant from Stouffville conducts a review and final report and provides a final certificate to the Town. Mr. Carnegie noted that once this certificate is received, prior to dumping the soil they visit the site to ensure the site looks the same as the report. Once that occurs they complete fill tickets which are very detailed allow for tracking of each load.

The next step is an 'initial soil report' that determines the content of the soil then the area of soil is staked out to ensure all are aware of what needs to be transported for remediation. Mr. Carnegie noted that they pave over at least 1,000 feet of road to ensure the tracks are clean when entering and exiting the remediation property. When the soil is dumped it is done in different areas since they can't drive on areas just dumped the previous day. They have consistent road cleaners to ensure the Town roads stay clean.

Moved by Dave Szollosy
Seconded by Mark Payne

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0039

THAT THE PRESENTATION ON THE REMEDIATION, REHABILITATION AND REVITALIZATION PROPOSAL FOR 23708
WARDEN AVENUE, KESWICK, ONTARIO (THANE SMELTER) BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.

Carried

Dave Szollosy, Councillor inquired as to what kind of microbes are used which Mr. Carnegie explained are engineered bacteria which very similar to the way humans digest things. These are anaerobic bacteria that receive oxygen by going through a barrel which loosens the material allowing for oxygen. These bacteria are produced by a company in Canada to ensure the microbes are functioning at temperatures as low as 7 degrees. Mr. Carnegie will forward the contact information for the Canadian supplier of this genetically modified microbe to the GEAC.

Mr. Carnegie also noted that while the expected breakdown of the hydrocarbons may not be at ‘0’ the end result will meet the standard allowable by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). Preliminary screening exposes what contaminants are in the soil which determines whether the soil can be treated or not and if lead complexes are evident the the level must be one acceptable by the MOE standards.

Mark Payne, Vice Chair, inquired as to how long dump truck loads stay at the site which Mr. Carnegie explained depends on weather conditions and the amount of hydrocarbons but usually on average is one week.

Jennifer Baron, Member, asked what the proponents propose to prevent leaching into the water table which Mr. Carnegie outlined that they use a high-density polyethylene liner as well as treating the ground water, then a waste water certificate of approval from the MOE would have to be issued before any of the waste water left the facility. As to leaching into the soil, they propose to clean out the contaminated soil that is currently on the site then install the liner prior to bringing in any soils requiring remediation.

Suzanne Smoke, Member, inquired about the extent of the MOE’s involvement in monitoring this process which Mr. Carnegie noted that the MOE requires a certificate of approval in order to conduct any of this business and that each load leaving the site must carry a record that it is ready to go which can be requested by the MOE at any time. These types of facilities are controlled by control documents and to ensure compliance of the facilities they are inspected by officers who can request independent consultants to review and provide a report on compliance.
Teresa Cline, Chair, invited the members of the public to address the Committee.

Mr. Philip Wellman, resident and dairy farmer whose property is located across the street from the Thane Smelter site explained he would like his business to continue in the future but feels it important that the MOE keeps it promise from years ago to ensure neighbouring properties are protected from contaminants from the Thane Smelter site. Mr. Wellman inquired as to why contaminated soils from outside of Georgina are being proposed for cleaning here rather than in their own jurisdictions such as pre-existing sites like Pickering. Mr. Wellman proposed leaving the site as is and do plantings rather than dealing with all these proposals for this filthy piece of land. Mr. Wellman believes many residents feel the same way as he does and no one in the community of Ravenshoe wants this proposal and that residents should have a say in what happens there.

Mr. Roland Peacock, resident who has lived on Kennedy Road for 46 years has witnessed the beginning of the Thane Smelter site. Mr. Peacock inquired as to whether the MOE will check on the site once a week or once a month once this new business is up and running. Mr. Peacock believes the Thane Smelter should never have been installed on a wetland to begin with and that this new proposal should not be considered.

Dr. Peter Strawbridge, resident who lives one kilometer south of the Thane Smelter site has been investigating remediation for quite some time and believes much more consideration should be given when receiving such a proposal as outlined today. He is astounded that the average remediation time is one week and thinks this is very optimistic on the proponents part. Dr. Strawbridge believes we are in the beginning stages of just understanding this remediation process and does not think that a decision can be made without a lot more investigation.

Ms. Cline, Chair, thanked the residents for their deputations.

Moved by Dave Szollosy
Seconded by Mark Payne

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0040

THAT THE DEPUTATIONS MADE BY PHILIP WELLMAN, ROLAND PEACOCK AND DR. PETER STRAWBRIDGE BE ACCEPTED FOR INFORMATION.

Carried…
Dave Szollosy, Councillor, noted that while the proponents did not request any decision of the GEAC, he explained to the proponents that many questions have arisen from the GEAC members and from the public that need to be answered such as what types of by-products are produced by the process; what is the impact on the community regarding livestock in the vicinity? Therefore, unless those answers are provided, Mr. Szollosy would not be comfortable making a request to the Town Council to change the zoning by-law to allow for soil rehabilitation at the Thane Smelter site.

Suzanne Smoke, Member, noted that in 2003 Premier Dalton McGuinty promised to clean up the Thane Smelter site which has not been done to date. Ms. Smoke wants to know why this promise has not been kept.

Ms. Teresa Cline, Chair, requested a five minutes recess at 9:40 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:52 p.m.

8.2 Pukwis Community Windpark Proposal, Georgina Island – Windfall Ecology Centre.

The Presentation was cancelled as per the e-mail correspondence from Jeff Harti of Windfall Ecology Centre.

9. COMMUNICATIONS:

9.1 Matters for Routine:

9.1.1 E-Mail Correspondence from Pam Fulford, Stewardship Specialist, Natural Heritage and Forestry Services, York Region Re: EAC Forum Minutes Follow-up.

Teresa Cline, Chair, noted that this is a forum that the Forestry Branch organized for the different Environmental Advisory Committees to participate in.

Jennifer Baron, Member, asked if the GEAC should respond to indicating the GEAC would be interested in participating in a regional EAC.

The Committee members discussed the proposed Ontario Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) Structure and proposed that one of the Committee members attend the next forum/meeting to be hosted by the Town of Markham which is scheduled for late September/early October.
9.1.2 E-Mail Correspondence from Christina Nagy-Oh, Manager of Environmental Initiatives, Town of Aurora Re: EAC Forum Members: Additional Town of Aurora Initiatives.

9.1.3 Municipal World Article, February 2011 “Moving forward while looking back – Wind turbines and cultural heritage landscapes”.

9.1.4 The Real Dirt on Farming II Magazine.

Moved by Jennifer Baron

Seconded by Vikki Bunnik

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0041

THAT ITEMS 9.1.1 TO 9.1.4 BE ACCEPTED FOR INFORMATION.

Carried…

10. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11.1 The Town of Georgina Fill By-Law:

The GEAC members discussed whether a separate meeting in July would be required to discuss this by-law

Moved by Mark Payne

Seconded by Suzanne Smoke

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0041


Carried…
12. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Teresa Cline, Chair, outlined the Environment Bill of Rights Registry contains all current actions the government is taking that may have an environmental impact which allows for anyone to access it and to monitor anything going on with the MOE.

Dave Szollosy, Councillor, noted that the Splash Festival, being held in August, is geared to activities around Lake Simcoe and it is an important initiative that the GEAC should consider being involved in.

Vikki Bunnik, Member, noted that the overall tone of the Pukwis Public Forum (proposed Windpark on Georgina Island) that she attended was negative and that residents seemed unhappy. The project was to have started in June and is now delayed with the laying of the foundation proposed for August and connecting to the grid by November 2011. Ms. Bunnik also noted that no permits nor environmental assessments are required for this project.

13. **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, September 7th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Dave Szollosy

Seconded by Mark Payne

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2011-0042

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT THIS TIME (9:59 P.M.)**

Carried…

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Teresa Cline, Chair

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Michele Vandentillaart,
Committee Secretary