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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Legal Services Department
"Committed to Service Excellence"

February 3, 2012
File: D09-OPA14

NOTICE OF THE FILING OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 17(15) and 22(6.4) OF THE PLANNING ACT, R.S.O. 1990, AS AMENDED, IN RESPECT TO A PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Official Plan Amendment to implement the Natural Heritage Strategy

TAKE NOTICE that the General Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Barrie will hold a public meeting on **Monday, February 27, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 70 Collier Street, to review a proposed amendment to the Official Plan to implement the Natural Heritage Strategy. The Natural Heritage Strategy (NHS) is intended to preserve and improve the network of environmental features remaining in the City for the area encompassed by the City boundaries as they existed on December 31, 2009.

As a first step in the creation of the NHS, staff worked co-operatively with the representatives of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) to graphically define environmental features at both provincial and local levels. Following the preparation of detailed mapping, an analysis was undertaken to establish levels of significance for these features.

- Level 1: includes provincially significant wetlands, habitat of endangered and threatened species, woodlands greater than 10 ha, and watercourse and vegetation protection zones.
- Level 2: includes significant valleylands, significant wildlife habitat, rare vegetation communities and woodlands greater than 4 hectares in size.
- Level 3: includes regionally significant life science ANSI's, supporting woodlands, and cultural thickets and meadows.

Policies are being proposed that promote the protection and enhancement of the natural features defined for each of the three levels, with Level 1 being afforded the greatest level of protection and Level 3 being afforded some level of protection but with some flexibility. In addition, buffer areas surrounding the natural heritage system would be required to develop with environmental sustainability. To implement the NHS, the three levels of the Natural Heritage System will be represented on Schedule "H" of the Official Plan. The updated Schedule, if approved, would be used in concert with the NHS policies drafted for the City's Official Plan.

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Any person wishing further information or clarification with regard to this proposed Amendment to the Official Plan should contact the Planning Services Department during regular office hours at 739-4208.

Any person may attend the meeting and make representation or present submissions respecting this matter. If you wish to make a submission concerning this matter, it should be directed to the City Clerk's Office by **February 22, 2012**. Any person may make representation at the meeting, however, written submissions are encouraged. Notification of the Official Plan Amendment if adopted by Council will be provided upon written request to the City Clerk.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of The City of Barrie before the Official Plan Amendment is passed:

- (a) the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of The City of Barrie to the Ontario Municipal Board; and
- (b) the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decisions of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie in respect of the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written submission to the undersigned.

All information including opinions, presentations, reports, documentation, etc. provided for or at a Public Meeting are considered public records. This information may be posted on the City of Barrie website and/or made available to the public upon request. Questions about this collection should be directed to the undersigned.

Dawn McAlpine, City Clerk
City of Barrie, P.O. Box 400
Barrie, Ontario L4M 4T5