



ABRH Newsletter

July 2022

1. Official Plan update:

Two amendments were made available for resident input and have now been presented to and largely endorsed by council.

a) Amendment 18.3: Our main complaint was the way the angular plane was proposed to be determined at transitions between centres or corridors and adjacent neighbourhoods where there is no intervening roadway. Brian Chapnik met with the planning department and explained the potential impact on our neighbourhoods if it was applied as the planning group had determined. He also made a presentation to council explaining the impact. Those presentations have influenced the determination of the angular plane so that it is now determined from the ground instead of from 10 feet above ground. In effect, while the new policy does allow more flexibility in allowing building forms to penetrate the angular plane, it provides for better transitions and protections for neighbourhood areas close to centres and corridors.

b) Amendment 18.4 on Neighbourhoods: Pat Pollock and her resident group met with the planning department and expressed their dissatisfaction with multi-tached housing as described in the amendment. That amendment went to council on July 6, 2022 and Karen Cilevitz proposed a motion whereby multi-tached-housing would be eliminated from the Official Plan but addressed in the context of the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law discussions. This is better since it is the zoning by-law, not the Official Plan, that is predominantly used in determining the infill developments.

2. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement (LA):

Richmond Hill still doesn't have a standard Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. After seemingly endless hours of discussion and motions, the formation of a review committee, and the hiring of an outside consultant, our council (which is ranked lowest in Ontario on the Municipal Democracy Index) has not yet been able to identify suitable wording for the acknowledgement. This is yet another issue upon which Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli has changed his mind and focus several times, to the detriment of several council meetings. Our message to council - stop wasting

valuable time on a brief statement for which there are many suitable templates and get on with acknowledging the indigenous land and the real business of governing this municipality.

3. Integrity Commissioner report Staff vs Perrelli:

Staff made 11 complaints against Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli of which 3 were determined to be valid. A reprimand was suggested for each infringement. See [Outcome: Integrity Commissioner Investigation Report \(cagrichmondhill.com\)](#) for more detail.

At the July 6 Council Meeting this report was presented and the following motion was passed by council: The report was received, Perrelli is to lose 90 days pay, and he is to issue an apology.

The three complaint allegations that were found valid are as follows:

- Allegation that after Ms. Dempster directed, on March 26, 2021, that communications between Mr. Perrelli and staff were to be only in writing, Mr. Perrelli communicated inappropriately with staff. This contravened subsection 7.4(c) of the Code of Conduct.
- Allegation that in January 2021 Mr. Perrelli threatened the job of Antonio Dimilta, the City Solicitor. This contravened the Respect in the Workplace Policy.
- Allegation that in April 2021 Mr. Perrelli acted inappropriately concerning a stop work order that Mr. Khan had issued concerning a property where construction had occurred without a building permit. This contravened the Respect in the Workplace Policy and subsection 7.5(c) and section 7.6 of the Code of Conduct.

A concern with this situation is that Perrelli, although this item on the agenda was against him, did not recuse himself, as we feel he should have.

4. Court case Perrelli vs the City of Richmond Hill

On July 4, 2022, Richmond Hill Regional and Local Councillor Carmine Perrelli filed yet another lawsuit against the City of Richmond Hill, the fourth that ABRH can find. This time he is attempting to avoid repayment of the \$139,000 which Council determined he owes taxpayers for his July 2021 green/blue bin event which he had previously promised to pay for through sponsorships and about which he publicly committed that *"no taxpayers' dollars will be spent for this event."* In his application, Mr. Perrelli specifically names several Richmond Hill employees and councillors in the suit, including the City's solicitor, city clerk, former city manager and head of human resources, in connection with which he lists many embarrassing and irrelevant events which he alleges constitutes "bad faith" against him.

Although the court date is initially for January 25, 2023 (after the October 24, 2022 municipal election), there is a good prospect the application will have to be converted into a trial because of Mr. Perrelli having raised so many embarrassing and irrelevant events that credibility will come into play and a judge will be hearing live witnesses.

It is clear to ABRH - and it should be equally apparent to any voter - that Mr. Perrelli will not accept any attempt by Council to visit him with consequences for his ongoing misconduct. To put it another way, Mr. Perrelli will not accept Council's majority vote unless he gets his way

In similar fashion, he previously filed suit against the City during his 2010-2014 term after the Council put in place a by-law to contain Mr. Perrelli's "willful misrepresentation of city decisions" to residents.

Each time Mr. Perrelli files a lawsuit, or one is filed against him or allegedly caused by him, Richmond Hill taxpayers incur a substantial cost. The City has also incurred significant costs to investigate each integrity commission complaint raised against him (multiple complaints over the past year, including the 11 separate complaints outlined in the integrity commissioner report of June 30, 2022. ABRH is trying to do an analysis of all of those costs amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, and will keep you informed as more information is uncovered.

In addition to the direct costs of Mr. Perrelli's actions suffered by taxpayers, one must consider the lost productivity, severance claims and emotional turmoil of Richmond Hill personnel who have had to go into therapy, taken leaves of absence or even resigned due to what previous City Manager, Mary-Anne Dempster, called his "toxic workplace harassment". Indeed, after her own trauma, Ms. Dempster is now suing the City of Richmond Hill for \$2M for failing to protect her from his actions; she seeks to hold the City liable for Mr. Perrelli's mistreatment of her.

Mr. Perrelli's actions and conduct have contributed to the weakness in our municipal government. He is a major distraction from Council and staff's ability to function. He is costing us all money to an extent that he has become a major net liability.

Voters were smart enough to exclude Mr. Perrelli from Council during the 2014-2018 term, but memories are short and unfortunately, he was returned to Council during the 2018 election. Don't make that mistake twice. ABRH urges you not to vote for him and to inform all your neighbours about the many problems he has created and the enormous waste of money and Council dysfunction for which he is responsible.

5. Court case Karen Cilevitz:

Here is the statement Councillor Cilevitz made to the court on July 11, 2022 posted on Facebook July 12, 2022. Sheila Wang's article is available in the same post.

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.shapiro.cilevitz>

6. ABRH Members Meet and Greet:

On June 18, 2022, we held our first members Meet and Greet. A few members came and your executive enjoyed hearing their viewpoints about issues related to the election and development in Richmond Hill. It is through this input that we can serve you better.



Thank you to those who came, and to those who provided food and drinks. It was an enjoyable afternoon for everyone.

7. Update on registered candidates for October 24 election:

Mayor: David West

Regional and Local Councillor: Godwin Chan

Ward 1: Carol Davidson

Ward 2: Tom Muench, Sigmund Lee, Tabinda Jatoi

Ward 3: Juni Yueng

Ward 4: Raika Sheppard, Simon Cui

Ward 5: Will Husnutdinov

Ward 6: Carol Chan, Sharon Chisholm

Ward 1, 2, 4 Trustee: Ali Nikjoo, Robert Kolosowski, Crystal Yu

Ward 3, 5, 6 Trustee: Sadra Nasser, Cindy Liang

Declaration of candidacy ends August 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., so until then the list is incomplete. Please start doing your homework so you know how you will vote. And please pass along any information if you know any of these candidates by emailing abrh.info@gmail.com. We would appreciate your input.

8. Call for help:

ABRH needs help in managing social media, in doing research on candidates and issues for our posting of flyers and making up our report card. If you can help, please mail abrh.info@gmail.com