

Richmond Hill Liberal

OMB official plan pre-hearing adjourned to December

Fri Sep 23 2011
Page: 1
Section: News
Byline: Adam McLean

Thirty-five Richmond Hill official plan appellants and a handful of resident groups attended an Ontario Municipal Board pre-hearing today regarding the town's official plan, which is endorsed by the Region of York. Problem is, while the plan is endorsed by the upper level of government, it wasn't formally approved by the Region within the 180-day allotted timeframe following its adoption by the town. For that reason, the plan was open for appeal.

The OMB now holds the final say on the fate of the town's growth plan and 35 different landowners and developers - including Corsica, the Arten Group and others - are getting a second crack at getting their way. Each group will state their case to the board members as to why they think the official plan should be amended. Friday's exchanges involved sorting out who will be official stakeholders in the process and a second pre-hearing meeting has already been scheduled for Dec. 9. First, the pre-hearing board chairperson Jan Seaborn and town legal representative Barnett Kussner said they would like to further group the stakeholders around various concerns. Most of the appellants take issue with site specific regulations in the official plan or particular sections of the plan, such as height or density restrictions or parkland and cash-in lieu of parkland requirements for new development. Friday also offered the opportunity for resident groups seeking participant or party status to ensure their future participation in the hearings. The David Dunlap Observatory Defenders Inc., Richmond Hill Naturalists and Yongehurst-Weldrick West Residents Association each requested status, as did the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Rounds of mediation between the parties, appellants and the municipalities are likely to still take place, but no dates have been announced. For more information, visit www.omb.gov.on.ca For The Liberal's editorial on this OMB appeal of the official plan, visit

© 2011 Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing