



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.:

Title: Niagara Escarpment Enforcement

Date: May 6, 2024

Moved by: Councillor C. Somerville

Seconded by: Councillor J. Brass

Item No.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario established the Niagara Escarpment area in 1973 and the Niagara Escarpment Plan in 1985 which protects a swath of land 725 KM long from Bruce to Niagara;

AND WHEREAS the governance for the Niagara Escarpment Plan, offices and staff is under the direct control of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) which receives funding from the Province of Ontario, specifically the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;

AND WHEREAS in whole or part, 23 local Municipalities, 7 Regions and the City of Hamilton all fall in the Niagara Escarpment catchment area;

AND WHEREAS the Municipalities within the area are restricted in which areas they can enforce for violation of the Niagara Escarpment plans;

AND WHEREAS the Niagara Escarpment Commission lists 1 Compliance Specialist and 1 Compliance Supervisor to cover an area of 195,000 Hectares and a distance of 725 KM which despite their best efforts means some areas may not receive any coverage for investigations;

AND WHEREAS it is not uncommon for investigation of violations within the plan area to be substantially delayed due to a lack of NEC staffing and resources, undermining the Town's ability to enforce its by-laws, protect the natural environment and maintain peace and order in the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Town of Halton Hills requests the Province of Ontario to increase funding for the Niagara Escarpment Commission to immediately hire and train more compliance officers to investigate the backlog of complaints and violations that have been filed in the area, together with the staff needed to support those appointments, and that those appointments occur in a timely manner in order to address the severe lack of enforcement resources in the area;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Ted Arnott MPP, Mayor Gord Krantz, Halton's Niagara Escarpment Commission member, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), The Region of Halton, City of Hamilton, the City of Burlington, Town of Milton and all Municipalities within the Niagara Escarpment area.

Mayor Ann Lawlor