

Dear Mayor Junkin and Pelham Town Councillors

August 15, 2022

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Pelham Advocates for Trees and Habitat (PATH) along with many concerned citizens of Pelham, we would like to make clear our position on the proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-Law that will come before you to vote on at the Regular Council Meeting on August 22, 2022. We recognize the work that has gone into strengthening environmental protections from what exists in the current Zoning By-Law for the Town of Pelham; however, this new proposed by-law does not go far enough in its climate change mitigation, or in making environmental best practices mandatory in zoning and development decisions. It does not reflect as serious a consideration of the impacts of the climate crisis and of extreme weather events as is warranted. For this reason, from our position of environmental advocacy, we do not fully endorse the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

We recognize the added protections the new Zoning By-law offers for EP1, EP2 and EP3 designations. **We hold Ms. Wiens and Town Planning staff to their word that** these designations will safeguard against the development of environmentally sensitive lands within Pelham in a way that the current by-law does not. We also note the assurance that has been repeatedly given that **the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law is a living document, and can be amended on an ongoing basis.** It must be appropriately stringent and forward-thinking in its climate mitigation and adaptation, policy and planning as the climate crisis intensifies.

If the Zoning By-law passes on August 22nd, we will approach our councillors to discuss motions for amendments to be put forward at a future council meeting. We respectfully ask you to represent the best interests of the residents of Pelham by remaining responsive to our efforts to improve this By-law, viewing future development in our town through a climate change action lens.

Respectfully,



Mike Jones, President/Chair, PATH

FOLLOW THE PATH