

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 20, 2009

CONCORD WEST STREETScape COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recommendation

Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri in consultation with Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. THAT a Concord West Streetscape Community Advisory Committee be established, and the Commissioner of Planning be directed to prepare a Terms of Reference for this non-statutory streetscape advisory committee and report to the April 20, 2008 Committee of the Whole with a proposed Terms of Reference;
2. THAT the Regional Municipality of York in consultation with the appropriate City of Vaughan staff be requested to provide the following deliverables for presentation to the Concord West Streetscape Community Advisory Committee for input:
 - a) Streetscape Improvement Plan Matrix (Immediate, Short and Long Term Opportunities, Costs, Funding Source and Implementation).
 - b) Streetscape Improvement Phasing Plan (Include context of timing for Keele Street Highway 7 EA and VIVAnextBRT).
 - c) Design Concepts (Key Areas).

Economic Impact

There is no immediate economic impact associated with this report. However, the long range financial implications will include future capital funding request for streetscape improvements, and the maintenance cost associated with this type of infrastructure, including long term replacement, which is not quantified at this time.

Communications Plan

A communication plan will follow as part of the Terms of Reference.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council direction to proceed with the establishment of the Concord West Streetscape Community Advisory Committee on the basis of the Terms of Reference to be prepared by the Development Planning Department, and a request that the Regional Municipality of York develop a Streetscape Improvement Plan Matrix with Conceptual Design Concepts for the area.

Background - Analysis and Options

On January 10, 2003, the President of the Concord West Ratepayers Association, made a formal request to the City of Vaughan through the then local Ward 4 Councillor, Mario G. Racco, to establish a Streetscape Advisory Committee to improve the appearance, upkeep and maintenance of the Keele Street and Highway No. 7 area (Attachment #1).

In response to the request from the Concord West Ratepayers Association, staff from the Development Planning Department conducted an analysis on the feasibility of establishing a streetscape committee for the Concord West Community. Following a presentation to the local Ward 4 Councillor, it was determined that the forming of a streetscape committee would be premature due to the Keele Street and Highway No. 7 area having been previously identified for possible extensive road improvements by the Region of York.

It was determined at the time that the creation of a streetscape committee should be delayed until the Region of York has completed a formal EA (Environmental Assessment) for improvements to the Keele Street and Highway No. 7 intersection and surrounding area. York Region is now currently undertaking the EA for the Keele Street and Highway No. 7 area with a Construction Program on the intersection improvements estimated for 2014. However, the Region's Construction Program is reviewed yearly and may be addressed accordingly.

On November 6, 2008 the president of the Concord Ratepayers Association contacted Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri through an e-mail (Attachment #3), requesting my assistance in championing the establishment of a Concord West Streetscape Community Advisory Committee, given my experience with the establishment of the Maple Streetscape Committee, and the fact that I currently sit on both Vaughan's and Region of York's Council.

The Concord West Ratepayers Association has requested that the City establish a Concord West Streetscape Community Advisory Committee at this time, as opposed to delaying it until the Region has completed the EA. By establishing this committee now, it will provide a forum for the community to provide their organized and collaborative comments and input to the Region of York and City of Vaughan on streetscape beatification improvements and related funding initiatives. Furthermore, this request has been active for 6 years and the residents in the Concord West community now deserve the creation of this non-statutory advising committee.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly "Plan & Manage Growth & Economic Vitality".

Regional Implications

To be determined by the Terms of Reference.

Conclusion

The establishment of the Concord West Streetscape Community Advisory Committee populated by representatives of the City of Vaughan, Region of York and local residents will provide a forum for community input on matters related to streetscape improvement projects in the public realm.

Attachments

1. President of Concord Ratepayers Association formal request dated January 10, 2003 to the then Ward 4 Councillor, Mario G. Racco
2. Location Map
3. President of Concord Ratepayers Association e-mail dated November 6, 2008 E-mail to Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri

Report prepared by:

Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri

Respectfully submitted,

Mario F. Ferri
Regional Councillor

Sandra Yeung Racco
Ward 4 Councillor

ATTACHMENT #1

Concord West Ratepayers' Association
P.O. Box 121
Concord, Ontario L4K 1B2

January 10, 2003

Councillor Mario G. Racco
City of Vaughan
2140 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario

RE: KEELE & HIGHWAY 7 STREETScape COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor Racco:

Please accept this letter as a formal request to establish the Keele and Highway 7 Streetscape Committee.

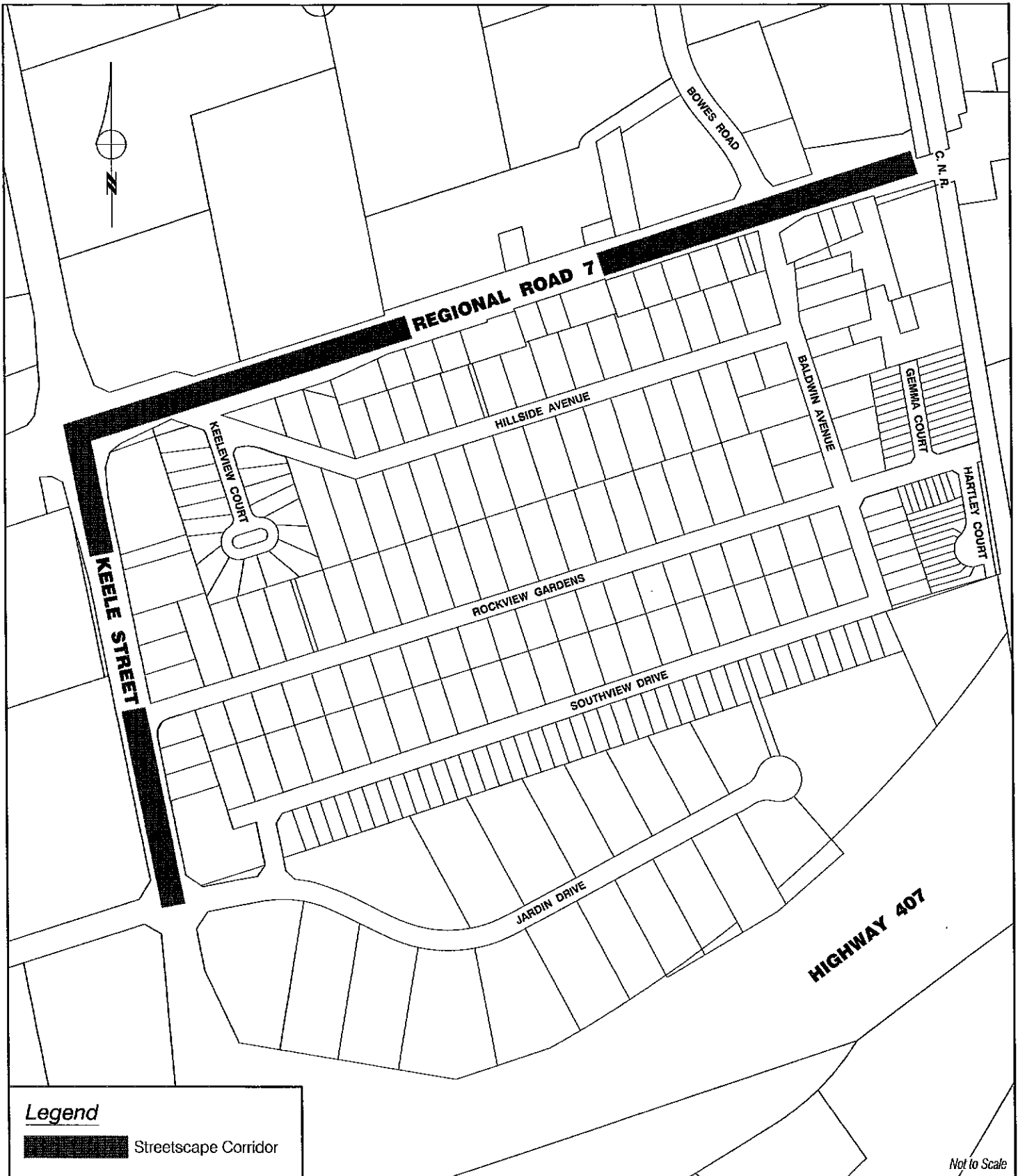
Throughout my tenure as President of the Concord West Ratepayers' Association, I have received many comments and complaints with regard to the appearance, upkeep and general maintenance of the Keele and Highway 7 area. These comments include and are not limited to Creditstone to the west and Centre Street to the east, Bowes Road to the north and Steeles to the south.

We are prepared to meet with you and City staff members in order to brainstorm and find effective remedies to our concerns. We would appreciate formal recognition as soon as possible and are ready to meet monthly commencing in either January 2003 or February 2003.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Ferlisi
President



Location Map - Concord West Streetscape



Attachment

2

Committee of the Whole
March 31, 2009

ATTACHMENT #3

-----Original Message-----

From: Ferri, Mario [mailto:Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 11:52 PM
To: wellness@idirect.com
Cc: Racco, Sandra; gdinorscia@rogers.com; T_panezutti@hotmail.com;
agnes.catenacci@ycdsb.ca; antoniettag@sympatico.ca; jhas@on.aibn.com;
josie.palermo@hotmail.com; julia_salerno82@hotmail.com;
fpisello@sympatico.ca; rmabardi@rogers.com; rosedimarco@concordwest.ca;
sandy.salerno@hotmail.com; Ferri, Mario
Subject: Re: Concord West Streetscape Committee

Kathy, thank you your email.

In response to your association's request, I would categorically state that I would be honoured to spearhead your request to establish the Concord West Streetscape committee.

Do recognize that it may take some time to secure full approvals. Nevertheless, I will begin Friday to get the wheels in motion.

I will be in touch as soon as I have some news. Your local Councillor's and association's continued participation in this project, will be very important as we move through the various phases.

All the best.

Mario Ferri

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Cathy Ferlisi <wellness@idirect.com>
To: Ferri, Mario
Cc: Racco, Sandra; Gabriele <gdinorscia@rogers.com>; 'Teresa' <t_panezutti@hotmail.com>; 'Agnes (For Sabino)' <agnes.catenacci@ycdsb.ca>; 'Antonietta' <antoniettag@sympatico.ca>; 'Archie' <jhas@on.aibn.com>; 'Cathy' <wellness@idirect.com>; 'Josie' <josie.palermo@hotmail.com>; 'Julia' <julia_salerno82@hotmail.com>; 'Phylis' <fpisello@sympatico.ca>; 'Roger' <rmabardi@rogers.com>; 'Rose' <rosedimarco@concordwest.ca>; 'Sandy' <sandy.salerno@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thu Nov 06 09:42:05 2008
Subject: Concord West Streetscape Committee

Good Morning Mario,

Throughout our many phone conversations regarding the establishment of the Concord West Streetscape Committee you have always agreed that it is only through the establishment of this committee that our neighbourhood would receive esthetical improvements to our boarding roads - Keele and Highway 7 respectively.

Given your experience with the Maple Streetscape Committee and given that you sit on both Vaughan's Council and York Region's Council - the purpose of this email is to formally ask you to champion this committee on our behalf through the City of Vaughan. Once this committee is established, we will be able to request funding through York Region's Streetscape Partnership Program.

We are in the process of acquiring written confirmation from Mrs. Thomas at York Region based on her verbal endorsement of this committee at our meeting in late June of this year.

It is our hope that through your help, her confirmation and the support of our Local Councillor, this much needed committee will be established.

Be home proud - be neighbourhood proud,

Cathy Ferlisi
President,
Concord West Ratepayers Association
www.concordwest.ca <<http://www.concordwest.ca/>>