

December 4th, 2024

For Council Consideration

Re: Committee of the Whole – December 9th, 2024 - B.6.1 Kevin Rostami and Tom Kern, Georgian Bay Racquet Club Re: Four-Court Tennis Development Leveraging Existing Town Assets at 130 King Street West

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

I find it hard to believe that I am having to write once again with regards to 130 King Street West.

There are so many reasons why this proposed use of this property via this deputation is so wrong. This is a large residential area in the Town of The Blue Mountains with no parkland/greenspace (as you have previously heard). My neighbours and I have advocated for this land to be a **passive use** with a couple of outdoor tennis courts and surrounded by parkland/greenspace. This area of the community is a retirement settlement and is wonderfully quiet at the best of times. This type of use will increase noise, traffic, lighting and is not an appropriate use for this land on so many levels.

I have had numerous discussions in this community with regards to an accessible park, which this community has yet to build. There are many communities surrounding our community that have accessible parkland, playground equipment, accessible seating, etc. The AODA Design for Public Space outlines the requirements for accessible parkland and we as a prosperous community should seriously consider making this space accessible along side two outdoor tennis courts. Wow what a novel idea.

As a member of the Cameron Shores Tennis Association, I again can assure you that there has been no communication with this Association which has assets in the two tennis courts on this property. There needs to be a serious discussion with this group before the Town can move forward with any use on this land. Again, this group is being overlooked for whatever reasons.

I find it interesting that Georgian Bay Racquet Club is coming to Council with a prepared motion for Council to approve on the spot prior to the rest of the community having an opportunity to submit their thoughts for this land. This is presumptuous on their part.

At the November 18th Committee of The Whole Meeting there was a motion presented and approved with a 5 to 0 vote to allocate \$10,000 to reach out to the community on the proposed use of these lands.

The Town has set aside sixteen acres of land on the Campus of Care lands. This would be a logical location for a facility of this size on lands of that size along with

other recreational amenities. There are other town owned lands that could be considered for this type of use.

As members of Council, I implore you to turn down this request and allow the process that was approved on November 18th to continue. Please allow this community to have a say in the use of this land and respect that this area were these lands are located is in a huge residential area.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine A. Sholtz

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 5:24 PM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Name:

James Giffen

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

Good Afternoon

I write to you as a resident of Cameron St. and user of the only greenspace in the area, at the site of the Cameron Shores Tennis courts , at which myself & family also play. About a month ago Council charged Ryan Gibbons with engaging with the community on the future use of this parcel of parkland. Council may be tired of hearing this, because it has been raised so frequently recently by our neighbourhood, but we are in desperate need of greenspace for our community over here. We have been engaging in discussions as frequently as we can about our desire for mixed use of this land for a tennis court facility - with a similar set up as Nipissing Ridge, with the bulk of the land for neighbourhood greenspace. We now see a well funded, group that does not live in the neighbourhood - nor even in TBM, try and hijack the property for a private Tennis Club that they suggest should be given for free, plus additional funding, at our expense. They discovered having to buy and develop land in their own back yard was going to be too expensive and now want it for free. They don't live here! They talk of using & developing the "Town Owned" existing courts. The Town owns the land. The Town does not own the courts - they were built and paid for by the local families on Cameron St. They are not the Town's to give away. We have a residential neighbourhood - not a commercial one designed for bright lights / a clubhouse / traffic - that this private club of theirs will bring. We have been engaging with Mr. Gibbons for YEARS to move forward and stop "kicking" this land use down the road. Please assist us in letting us keep the only greenspace our area has!

Thanks so much.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 11:25 AM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Council & Town Clerk

Name:

Jo-Ann Zoon

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

I am writing to voice my opposition to a deputation to be made by the Georgian Bay Community Raquets Centre to Town Council on December 9. It was my understanding that Town Council had planned to consult with its local residents on an appropriate use of the land at 130 King St. W., recognizing the need for green space for the residents of Thornbury west. This regional proposal not only seems to have come out of left field but goes against the principals of fairness and transparency. Such a facility does not belong in this residential area. The added traffic alone spells trouble for Peel Street. It is already becoming increasingly difficult to safely exit the street onto Hwy 26. The bright lights from the tennis courts are another concern. Surely there are more appropriate park-like locations for such a facility, and one that doesn't take away green space from the Trailwoods neighbourhood. I so hope that members of council will give this issue due consideration and give priority to its local Thornbury residents.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>

Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2024 7:56 AM

To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>

Subject: Webform submission from: Town Clerk

Name:

Steve Seabrooke

Email:

[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

I am writing to provide feedback on item B.6.1 listed on the Committee of the Whole agenda (COW) for Monday, December 9, 2024. I am not supportive of this deputation for the following reasons:

1. As a resident who lives close to the existing tennis courts, there is no need to expand in size the existing tennis infrastructure. The current courts generate enough noise that is tolerable and to expand the courts to four would make it intolerable. Adding a bubble over the courts for winter use requires air dome blowers which creates noise. This noise pollution does not belong in a residential community not to mention what it might do to the wildlife that live in the greenspace.
2. Council has mentioned on many occasions about the importance of preserving greenspace. The deputation provides an aerial photo of the existing greenspace with all the mature trees. A facility of this size should be built in a non-residential area with little to no impact to greenspace.
3. The group behind this deputation gives the reader the impression there is a rush for this proposal such that seeking community feedback is not a priority. Proper consultation with the community who live in the area is vital for the COW and Council to make an informed decision on what is best for the TBM.
4. The TBM and the Town of Collingwood have contracted Colliers to conduct a Multi-Use Recreation Feasibility Assessment. I applaud both Councils and Colliers for the thorough public survey and in-person engagement opportunities that were undertaken to determine the needs of both communities. This is the proper way to define the path forward for recreational facilities in both communities.
5. The Trailwoods development does not have any parkland. As a citizen with grandchildren, it would be nice to walk from my home to suitable greenspace and 130 King Street would be the perfect place for future parkland.