

Subject: Correspondence for COW mtg

Hello Corrina,

Please include this submission for inclusion in the comments and discussion at the Committee of The Whole meeting on Monday, May 26, 2025

Reference: Item B.14.6 "Options for 130 King St. W. and Engagement Response CS.25.025"

Topic: Public Input presented, but not recorded at the May 8 Public Information Centre

From: Ann Joyner, [REDACTED], Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear TBM Committee of The Whole,

I was in attendance at the PIC on May 8, 2025 to discuss public input to recreational uses of the 130 King St. W. property. I, along with most of the attendees, was very disappointed that Director Ryan Gibbons started the session by saying that no questions or comments would be taken that night, we were just to fill out and post stickies on a few poster boards. The session had been advertised in many places to include discussion, but he decided to change the format on the spot. Many people protested and called out and started speaking about the topics of concern they had. Reluctantly, Mr. Gibbons agreed to make the floor open to public comments and answered questions posed. He stated very clearly that no notes of this public input would be recorded. The discussions went on for at least one and a half hours and the many participants clearly expressed their strong opinions about the options under consideration that need to be considered by Council.

I am writing this letter to ensure you have a sense of the main concerns that many of the residents expressed in regards to the recreational opportunities they would like to see on this property. I am in opposition to the proposal for the domed 6 court regional tennis facility. Here are my main points of concern and desires for the site that were echoed by many others at the meeting.

1. The survey was seriously compromised as it was completed by many who do not even live in TBM. There does not appear to be a defensible and accurate way to identify respondents specifically from the TBM. The Town needs to give priority to input directly from the local residents.
2. Taxpayer money should not be used to develop a huge domed facility at this site. It does not fit into this residential area and should not be given any special tax exemptions, access to capital funds, or free lease arrangements.
3. There is no parkland for residents in this area of west Thornbury. This parcel can easily be made into a park including low cost activities such as a walking trail, children's playground,

picnic tables, tennis and other hardcourt low organization sports. This is what is desired and needed by local residents like myself.

4. This site offers amazing natural habitat that should be preserved and even enhanced with native plantings. It is a unique area close to the Little Beaver River and offers shade and space for people to enjoy some forest habitat which is rare within our town. As I mentioned at the meeting, I am a Professional Planner with a long career as an environmental planning consultant across Ontario and Canada. It is my opinion that it is most effective and helpful to complete hazard mapping and a simple environmental analysis in advance of site planning to avoid unnecessary impacts and enhance the natural amenities and features of the site. **This is standard procedure for projects in small municipalities across Ontario and can be done by TBM staff using secondary source information and a detailed site walk-through at no extra cost to the project.**

5. A park on Peel St adds a destination to many residents of west Thornbury via active transportation means. The site is easily connected to the Georgian Trail and future Bay St. footbridge that will allow residents to connect via walking, bicycling and jogging. The upcoming Peel St North reconstruction which includes a bicycle/walking path is a perfect connector for a new park to the rest of town.

Sincerely,
Ann Joyner

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