

Communication 15

On Nov. 8, 2020 6:35 p.m., Bev Dutoff <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good Evening Councillors,

I was on a trail walk this weekend in beautiful Unionville and landed on Victoria Avenue, a true gem of a street for the locals and tourists. I was shocked as I left the wooded area and came upon an unexpected site....a chain link fence against the heritage backdrop. I spoke briefly with my neighbour and understand that this eyesore went in with no permit. This is unacceptable and I urge the City to respect its heritage standards and ensure that developments in the heritage area comply with the requirement to harmonize with their environment. Our heritage district matters to us and I hope that decision makers understand that the unique character of Unionville is made up of many individual decisions to comply with requirements.

Bev

Communication 16

On Nov. 8, 2020 7:34 p.m., NATALIE HALLIDAY <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Councillors,

I am writing to you today in regards to item 10.1 on the Development Services Committee agenda for November 9th – Appeal of Heritage Permit Application for a Fence 3 Victoria Lane, Unionville.

I have walked along Victoria Avenue on hundreds of occasions over the years that I have lived in Markham.

I have always admired the homes and especially the end house, #31 Victoria Avenue.

The vista and the greenery has always been so open, peaceful and beautiful.

I often spot deer grazing in the yard of #31 and the green space that abuts the ravine.

One morning in July, I noticed a hedge go up between the properties - #31 and its neighbor. It looked very strange as the plants looked half dead and were planted in a haphazard manner.

The next time I was on my walk in the area, I noticed something even crazier.

A black chain link fence had been erected.

The owner of #31 Victoria Avenue happened to be outside watering his garden and so I made a comment about the fence. At first I tried to sound polite as I was unsure who had erected it.

When I found out that it was his neighbor, I felt sad and anger.

This beautiful street is filled with history from years gone by.

This little piece of heaven at the end of Victoria Avenue has been destroyed by the installation of something that I now understand to have been erected without a permit (even though the home owner was advised to apply for a permit prior to the installation), no consultation with the neighbors, trespassing onto the property of #31 to install this illegal fence and then now having the audacity to appeal a unanimous vote by the Heritage Markham Committee to have it removed.

And, on top of all this, I now see that City staff is recommending to go against the Heritage Markham Committee's unanimous vote, and recommend that the fence be allowed.

This is truly unbelievable. Anyone who visits the area will notice the truly ugly and out of place fencing that has no place on this quaint street.

I was under the impression that the Heritage of Markham is protected so well. That it is respected and admired.

Hundreds of people visit the area to walk and to admire these specific properties and spaces. They are constantly photographed and painted by artists who sit along the lane.

It is in the City's best interest to ensure that situations like this, inappropriate fences, are disallowed and that heritage is maintained and protected.

Mayor Scarpitti, you have always referred to Unionville as a 'Rare Historical Gem'. You need to step in and ensure all of it is preserved and protected.

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of Heritage Permit Application – 3 Victoria Lane, Unionville

The fence that surrounds the yard of #31 Victoria Avenue is so openly visible to 'the world that wanders by' and is stark, bleak, and completely out of place in height, design and finish. I appeal to your good senses to ensure that this fence is removed and the appeal denied.

Sincerely,

Markham Resident

Communication 17

On Nov. 8, 2020 7:38 p.m., Eva Lam <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Councillors,

I am writing to you today in regards to item 10.1 on the Development Services Committee agenda for November 9th – ***Appeal of Heritage Permit Application for a Fence 3 Victoria Lane, Unionville.***

I understand there have been some challenges regarding a fence that has been erected between #31 Victoria Avenue and #3 Victoria Lane. Specifically a black chain linked fence installed without a permit and counter to the Heritage Markham Committee.

I am a proud Unionville resident and would like to maintain the charm our historic area presents. I hope that Mayor Scarpitti and our Councillors agree and will follow the guidance provided by the Heritage Markham Committee.

Sincerely,
Eva Lam
[REDACTED]

Communication 18

On Nov. 8, 2020 9:04 p.m., Siglinde Majumder <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Siglinde Majumder, [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Scarpitty, Deputy Mayor and Markham Councillors.

I have walked down Victoria Avenue in Unionville often, especially in the fall.

I was shocked to see a very tall chain-link fence on the property of number 31.

This fence does not do this beautiful area any justice.

One can see it from the road and pathway. It is not keeping with the heritage district nature of the home that it surrounds.

It is the biggest eye sore for all residents who are most familiar with this area and it is not consistent with the Heritage Conservation District Plan which clearly states that "Fencing is an integral part of establishing and keeping the character of an area and of a very important visual element in the streetscape. Modern chain-link fences do not, for example help to keep the heritage character."

I have full confidence that Markham Council will ensure that this fence be removed.

Sincerely,

Siglinde Majumder

Communication 19

On Nov. 8, 2020 8:42 p.m., Nick Pandit [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Mayor & Markham Councillors,

I write to you concerning the **NEW INDUSTRIAL** black chain-link fence that has been erected at the south-east corner of Victoria Avenue and Victoria Lane.

To be sure, it is not in keeping with the aesthetic values - or guidelines - for any "heritage village property."

Presently, what ALL users see when they go to the adjacent park is a metal barrier that is usually used to cage large animals.

Is such a structure really necessary?

The fence displays a disregard for cultural and historical aesthetics. Put another way, it is not in keeping with the preservation of the historic makeup of this unique area.

Additionally, as this fence is clearly visible from all the adjacent pathways - to all the users - I request that a less obtrusive method be found to segregate the residential and municipal properties. Hopefully, the new method will be one that is less "industrial" and less aggressive.

Like you, I am sure that you too want to help safeguard this established area for generations to come.

Therefore, by not allowing the placement of such an invasive structure you will help to preserve the historic character of Unionville.

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In closing, I look forward to your support in helping to have this disfigurement removed.

Sincerely,

Nick Pandit

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communication 20

On Nov. 8, 2020 7:43 p.m., Paul Morrison <[REDACTED]> wrote:

There is a property at #31 Victoria Avenue in Unionville which we have always admired. A little while ago, the owner of the adjoining property (actually on Victoria Lane) put up a chain-link fence between the two properties, without a permit, actually trespassing onto #31's property to install this fence. This was done even though the Heritage Markham Committee, on hearing that he had no permit, voted unanimously to have him apply for a permit and/or remove the fence. In the process, the neighbour also destroyed a stretch of the intervening city shrubbery, significantly changing the appearance of #31. The fence in its present form is unsightly, and can in fact be seen from a number of locations on the street.

Apparently, City staff are now recommending to go against the Heritage Markham Committee's unanimous vote, and recommend that the fence be allowed. This is bizarre, as the fencing is functional, contemporary, highly visible, and totally incompatible with the ambiance of this quaint street.

Victoria Avenue is part of what makes Unionville "the jewel of Markham", and the city should ensure that Unionville is protected, and that home-owners not be permitted to erect structures that are totally out of keeping with the atmosphere of our beautiful village. The rules have been enforced successfully elsewhere in the village, so why not in this case?

If the argument is made that the fence is only the concern of the property owner who put it up, this is simply not true. The esthetic and economic value of the neighbouring properties will be affected adversely if this eyesore is allowed to remain in its present form. If the fence is absolutely necessary it should be done to acceptable Heritage standards. We hope that common sense prevails, and that the appeal of the fence owner is denied.

Sincerely,

J. Paul and Brenda Morrison

Station Lane,

Unionville

Communication 21

On Nov. 8, 2020 7:43 p.m., Klaus Rossler <[REDACTED]> wrote:

The honourable Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Councillors,

On a recent walk on one of my favorite trails I noticed a newly erected chain-link fence in the vicinity of 31 Victoria Street. Upon further investigation I learned that the Heritage Committee had requested that the fence be torn down and replaced with one that meets the approved standards of such committee.

It is my understanding that the proper procedures were not followed by the respective property owner which appears to be the case of "build first and ask questions later". This type of behaviour only encourages others to do the same as they might get away with it. I have now learned that the property owner in question has launched an appeal which will be heard at the Development Services Committee on Nov 9th, 2020.

I am appealing to all members of such committee to turn down the appeal and to enforce the original decision of the Heritage Committee. After all, we have rules and regulations that deal with such matters and they should be obeyed by everybody. The illegally erected fence does change the character of that part of Victoria Street with its charming bridge and the surrounding forest.

Please make the right decision and have the existing fence removed.

With best regards

Klaus Rossler