

From:

Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2024 10:29 PM

To: Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham <jjones@markham.ca>; Mayor Scarpitti <mayorscarpitti@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Joe Li - Markham <joeli@markham.ca>; Gold, Laura <lgold@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <krea@markham.ca>; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham <kirish@markham.ca>; Manning, Evan <emanning@markham.ca>; Hutcheson, Regan <rhutcheson@markham.ca>; Taylor, Andy <ataylor@markham.ca>

Cc: Haulover Investments Ltd; Alligood, Erica <ealligood@markham.ca>; Lyons, Darryl <dlyons@markham.ca>

Subject: January 23, 2024 DSC at 9:00 AM Re: 9.2 RECOMMENDATION REPORT, INTENTION TO DEMOLISH A PROPERTY LISTED ON THE MARKHAM REGISTER OF PROPERTY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST, 7951 YONGE STREET, THORNHILL, SAMUEL FRANCIS HOUSE (16.11)

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Good Evening

Chair Jones and Members of DSC
- and -

Att: Mayor and Members of Markham Council & Staff

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Michael Chan
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Regional Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Keith Irish
Councillor Ritch Lau
Councillor Reid McAlpine
Councillor Karen Rea
Councillor Andrew Keyes
Councillor Amanda Collucci
Councillor Juanita Nathan
Councillor Isa Lee

I represent the Owner of 7951 Yonge Street.

Our client seeks a demolition permit for the property.

A permit has already been obtained from Metrolinx since the lands are subject to Metrolinx development control permit system in view of the Yonge North Subway extension and proposed Royal Orchard Station. The property will be adjacent to the subway station box and future Royal Orchard Station.

I write **to object to the proposed designation of the property** the recommendations of Staff - which should be rejected.

DSC and City Council should reject and distance themselves from:

a) Heritage Markham's recommendation to DSC and HMC, and

b) the underlying Staff Report by E Manning, Heritage Planner, approved by R. Hutchenson, and proposed statement of significance for the property as found in Schedule C to Heritage Markham Staff report to HM on 10 January 2024.

The proceedings of HM Committee held on January 10, 2024 and chaired by Councillor Rea - were unfair and improper.

No explanation was ever provided to the Owner to explain any change in Heritage Markham Staffs' position from 2022 (see below) to Dec 2023 - that the building did not merit designation under the Act.



Date: May 11, 2022

To: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
E. Manning, Heritage Planner

EXTRACT CONTAINING ITEM # 4.1 OF THE FIFTH HERITAGE MARKHAM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 11, 2022

**4.1 DEMOLITION PERMIT
APPLICATION TO DEMOLISH A PROPERTY LISTED ON THE
MARKHAM REGISTER OF PROPERTY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
VALUE OR INTEREST
7951 YONGE ST, THORNHILL (16.11)**

Evan Manning, Heritage Planner, addressed the committee and summarized the memorandum, noting that the property was adjacent to the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District, and was listed on the Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Mr. Manning advised that the former dwelling, now in commercial use, was fairly intact with modifications including the replacement of doors and windows and the reconfiguration of the original ground floor window along the west elevation. Otherwise the form of the building was intact. He noted that the building was screened from Yonge Street with mature trees.

Mr. Manning indicated that Staff evaluated the property under Ontario Regulation 9/06, noting that the evaluation framework was established by the Province in order to ensure consistency among municipalities when assessing a property's potential cultural heritage value. It was the opinion of Staff that the building has modest design and historical value, but possesses some contextual value as per Ontario Regulation 9/06. He advised that the property was also evaluated using the City's Heritage Resources Evaluation System, and it was the opinion of Staff that the property straddled the Group 2 and Group 3 classifications.

Jeffrey Streisfield, a representative of the applicant, indicated that the property lacks strong reasoning for designation under Ontario Heritage Act, as the property did not constitute a significant cultural heritage resource. Mr. Streisfield noted

- and -

- Questioned the definition of significant by someone who had an interest in removing the building, noting that properties with less significance and in poorer condition have been conserved elsewhere.
- Inquired why Staff was not clearly in opposition to demolition of the building.
 - Staff commented that there were multiple viewpoints as to the cultural heritage value of the property and that staff values hearing the advice and input of Heritage Markham. Staff indicated that the building contained some design and historical value as described in Ontario Regulation 9/06, but that it was the position of Staff that it was the value was not significant. Staff clarified that the purpose of the memo was to encourage discussion, rather than present a conclusion as to whether the existing building should be conserved.

The proposed description by Staff (see Schedule C to Jan 10, 2024 HM Staff Report) lacks clarity, is weak and does not read like a property of significance and worthy of designation.

No one reading the statement would be left with the impression that the property has any significance **especially having reviewed the May 2022 Staff report and minutes of HM.**

It is also noted that the property, according to Staff, continues to straddle Group 2 and 3 of Markham's criteria. **And not Group 1.**

Notice to Markham

All available means will be used to resist this designation in order to ensure the building is demolished before years end.

Further particulars concerning improper and unprofessional conduct by heritage markham staff will be provided. However, some examples include:

1. At no time in 2022 did Mr. Manning indicate that HM and his report were preliminary, but that is what he said to HM on Jan 10. So that comment was new.
2. The owner agreed to adjourn the meeting from December 2023 to January 10 on conditions (see attachment). Between this time Staff changed their report and schedule C to the January 2024 staff report is now different than schedule C to the December 2023 staff report which is different from schedule C to the May 2022 report. **Hope you follow this.**

On January 10, I (and all listening) learned from Mr. Manning that a Mr. Duncan was retained to assist staff to justify the change in position.

Mr. Manning volunteered that information in response to my request on January 10 - to be advised who from staff had prepared the January report and Schedule C statement of significance. **This information was never disclosed** to the Owner although I suspect Councilor Rea and others on HM knew this and were seeking a change in Staff's position from May 2022. It appears Mr. Duncan's work may have had an impact on Mr. Manning's views, but he did not disclose that in his report, nor attribute any work or research to Mr. Duncan.

I understand from the MIT student handbook - see link below that "Plagiarism occurs when you use another's words, ideas, assertions, data, or figures and do not acknowledge that you have done so".

There is nothing in the December 2023 or January 2024 reports that refers to Mr. Duncan or his work...which apparently resulted in a change in position.

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What is Plagiarism? | Academic Integrity at MIT

I reserve the right to provide further particulars regarding the deficiencies in procedure at HM on January 10, and the lack of professionalism associated with the change in Staff's report and recommendation without explanation to the owner.

I would also like to make an in person deputation to speak to this matter. Please confirm and please also advise when this matter is going to council.

Please confirm receipt and provide notice of any decision to me via email.

Thank you.

Jeffrey E Streisfield, BA LLB MES

Principal and Founder of:

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