

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Council meeting Oct 17, 38 John St .

From: Joseph Ricciuti
Sent: October-16-16 9:31 PM
To: Ken Webster
Cc: Hutcheson, Regan; Councillor, Valerie Burke - Markham; Bavington, Kitty
Subject: RE: Council meeting Oct 17, 38 John St .

Ken, once again I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow as I'm in Winnipeg all day. I would have been available if the meeting was on Tuesday.

I want to re-iterate my position as being steadfast against the demolition of the house at 38 John St.

I have included, immediately below, the copy of the email my wife and I submitted last month against the application to demolish the house. I have highlighted in yellow the salient points of our argument to reject the demolition application. Our position still stands and I trust you will re-submit it in my absence.

From my perspective If the application goes through it would make a mockery of the principles to protect of the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District. Remember too, that all historic houses in the District that are 100 years+ were once 50 year old houses. 38 Colbourne will be an historic house in less than 40 years. So why destroy it at this crucial time in its history? The only rationale that I can think of, is to appease the wishes of a developer who has no community interest other than making a profit at the expense of history !!! We must not cowtow to this.

Note: I have copied in Valerie Burke, Kitty Bevington and Regan Hutcheson on this e-mail note:

Thanks

Joe Ricciuti

Dear Kitty,

Since we will not be able to attend the meeting on September 6th, we would like the City of Markham to accept this email as our opposition to the request by the new owner of 38 John St. for a demolition permit.

In our opinion it is fundamentally wrong to demolish a house *within* a protected heritage district. It runs counter to the notion of preservation. The village of Thornhill is a heritage conservation district and its residents have been strong stewards to uphold a guiding principle to preserve a broad scope of elements within its boundaries that define the make-up of the protected community. We would like to highlight a paragraph from Heritage Ontario's policy statement which describes this principle:

Heritage Conservation Districts form an integral part of our cultural heritage. They contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the cultural identity of the local community, region, province or

nation.

The significance of an HCD often extends beyond its built heritage, structures, streets, landscape and other physical and spatial elements, to include important vistas and views between and towards buildings and spaces within the district.

From our perspective, conservation cannot be limited to just preserving one classification of a house over another classification of a house within a heritage district. It is the larger picture of taking responsibility to preserve the fabric and character of the conservation district that is critical. Without a broader view of preservation, Thornhill's HCD will be at risk to developers who will pick apart the community for their own personal business interests. This is especially true in a hot real estate market. Developers often take advantage of desirable neighbourhoods. They tend to use their influence and financial clout, when they are challenged by residents in the community, to gain City approval for demolition and redevelopment permits.

This cannot be the way in Old Thornhill. It's not right and it's not acceptable for our residents to constantly be put on notice to defend the merits of Thornhill's HCD. The onus must be on new buyers to appreciate the value of preservation and the principles that guide its protection. There is a greater purpose at stake and it is for the benefit of all future generations. If the City were to simply allow the demolition of 38 John Street, it will not only destroy a part of the existing streetscape but an important part of the **'evolution fabric'** that has shaped what Historic Thornhill is today.

We encourage the City to reject the demolition application for 38 John Street and any other applicants who wish to do the same in Thornhill's HCD. Preservation by restoration is a much better option..

Regards

Joe and Diane

Joseph and Diane Ricciuti