



Muncaster
Environmental
Planning Inc.

March 5, 2021

Jessica D'Aoust, RPP MCIP M.Pl
Senior Planner
jd planning & project management

Dear Ms. D'Aoust:

**RE: Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton
Proposed Community Building
Environment Impact Statement - Addendum**

I have reviewed the latest Site Plan, issued **February 10**, for the above project and offer these comments as they relate to our August 2017 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The assembly hall is to be constructed east of the Temple's existing parking lot on the east side of Bank Street and will be serviced by City water and a new septic system separate from the existing system used by the Temple. The assembly hall building will have a building footprint of 1,593 m² and approximate gross floor area of assembly space of 1,400 m². The location of the assembly hall and septic field is on disturbed meadow habitat, with minimal removal woody vegetation required for the construction. The existing parking lot to the west will be utilized for the new assembly hall as well as the existing access of Bank Street. All site disturbances will be to the west of a tributary of Findlay Creek.

Two natural heritage features, as defined in the Provincial Policy Statement and OMNR (2010), are present on and adjacent to the overall site, the intermittent fish habitat in the Findlay Creek Tributary and the significant woodlands associated with the on-site forests and adjacent contiguous forests to the east of the proposed development area.

The tributary to Findlay Creek to the east of the proposed development is an intermittent watercourse supporting direct fish habitat with three common cool and warm water forage fish species in eastern Ontario; brook stickleback, central mudminnow, and finescale dace. The pools found in the tributary may provide refuge for the forage fish during drier times. The setbacks recommendation in our EIS were approximately 15 metres from the top of slope or 20 metres from the normal highwater mark, whichever is greater. The approved top-of-slope setback is 13 metres. The assembly hall and septic system to the south were shifted to the west to be a minimum of 20 metres from the normal highwater mark of the Findlay Creek tributary. In addition to all structures, the stormwater management pond footprint has been modified to be outside of the 20 metre setback as well. The proposal for a recreational trail has been removed. Only planting areas will be within the 20 metre setback.

The upland cedar coniferous forest in the east portion of the overall site is contiguous with a large, over 100 hectares, forested area extending off-site to the east, northeast and southeast. The overall contiguous forest supports a large amount of forest interior habitat and would meet the size criteria used to define significant woodlands in Table 7-2 of the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (OMNR, 2010), resulting in the overall forest considered significant woodlands. The coniferous forest is east of the Findlay Creek tributary and all disturbances will be to the west of the west top-of-slope associated with the tributary. Thus, there will be ample protection for the critical root zones of the outer trees of the forest. No new forest edge will be created and indirect impacts on the forest to the east are not anticipated.

The Ministry of the Natural Resources and Forestry's 'Make a Map: Natural Heritage Areas' website was reviewed again on March 4th, 2021. This site allows for a search of Threatened and Endangered species covered by the 2008 *Endangered Species Act*, as well as other species of interest. A search was conducted on the 1 km squares including the lands proposed for development and adjacent area (18VR51-37 and -47). As before the threatened bobolink was identified for these squares, with a new listing of butternut. No butternuts were observed on or within 50 metres of the proposed development.

Recommendations

A review of the Site Plan indicates there will be no direct impacts on the Findlay Creek tributary, wetlands or significant woodlands to the east of the tributary. The following important mitigation measures are to be successfully implemented to ensure no indirect impacts on the natural environment features to the east:

1. The amount of tree removal for the assembly hall and septic system is anticipated to be minimal and is to be minimized as much as possible;
2. Prior to construction taking place, silt fencing is to be properly installed along the 20 metre setback from the watercourse to the east and other portions of the work area. It is important that the silt fencing is properly maintained until construction is complete and that the fencing is removed once the site is stabilized. In addition to filtering any surface water runoff, the fencing will confine construction activity, keep turtles and other wildlife out of the work area, and protect the adjacent woody vegetation to be retained;
3. Woody vegetation removal is to occur before April 15th or after August 15th for the protection of breeding birds, unless a survey conducted by a qualified biologist within five days of the vegetation removal identifies no bird nesting activity;
4. As recommended in City of Ottawa (2015) prior to beginning work each day, the work area is to be checked for wildlife by conducting a thorough visual inspection of the work space and immediate surroundings. See Section 2.5 of the City's Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction (City of Ottawa, 2015) for additional recommendations on construction site management. Any turtles or snake observed in the vicinity of the work areas or that may otherwise be in danger are to be safely relocated to the natural areas to the east and south of the work area. Animals should be moved only far enough to ensure their immediate safety. See Appendix 1 and the links in Section 4 of City of Ottawa (2015) for suggestions on how to effectively relocate turtles and snakes;

5. The contractor is to be aware of the potential Species at Risk in the vicinity of the site including butternut and Blanding's turtle. Appendix 1 of City of Ottawa (2015) describes these species. The project biologist is Bernie Muncaster (613-748-3753). Any Species at Risk sightings are to be immediately reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and work that may impact the species suspended until direction is received from the Ministry;
6. Roof runoff should be directed to rain barrels, grass or other permeable surfaces and other low impact development best management practices should be considered in the stormwater management for the site including bioswales, rain gardens and low gradient grassed slopes designed to treat the quality and reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff;
7. Outdoor lighting is to be kept to a minimum and not directed to the east of the assembly hall;
8. Pets are to be controlled at all times;
9. To improve the function of the reduced setback and to provide a benefit to local wildlife and other natural environment components, the Applicant will plant native trees and shrubs in the open space portions of the setback between the Findlay Creek tributary and the east edge of the development. This will expand the setback functions, including treatment of surface runoff and extent of habitat such as providing food, cover and space for birds and other wildlife. Consideration should be given to adding nesting boxes to help out the birds. A mix of native tree species from a local source is highly recommended, including sugar maple, red maple, tamarack, white spruce, red oak, and basswood. Examples of native shrubs to plant include nannyberry, red-osier dogwood, ninebark and red-berried elder. Plantings of tamarack, red maple, red oak, white spruce, red-osier dogwood, red elderberry, and nannyberry are shown in the open portions of the setback area on the Landscape Plan (January 27th, 2021) by James B. Lennox and Associates Inc.;
10. Municipal by-laws and provincial regulations for noise will be followed and utilities will be located as required in the vicinity of the site prior to construction. Waste will be managed in accordance with provincial regulations;
11. The contractor will have a spill kit on-hand at all times in case of spills or other accidents; and,
12. The extent of exposed soils is to be kept to a minimum at all times. Re-vegetation of exposed, non-developed areas is to be achieved as soon as possible.

Conclusion

An assembly hall is proposed to be built in disturbed meadow habitat to the east of the existing Temple and surface parking. The assembly hall will be serviced with City water and a new septic system to be installed to the south of the assembly hall. The assembly hall will use the existing access off Bank Street and surface parking.

A tributary of Findlay Creek supports intermittent fish habitat to the east of the proposed development area, with an upland cedar coniferous forest to the east of the tributary. The channel and forest will be protected with a 20 metre setback from the normal highwater mark of the channel. In combination with successful implementation of the important mitigation measures described above, including plantings of native trees and shrubs in the currently open

portions of the setback, it is anticipated that this reduced setback will provide sufficient protection for the limited aquatic features of the channel.

The conclusions of this EIS Addendum remain the same as our 2017 EIS. It is the professional opinion of the author that the construction and operation of the assembly hall and septic field is not anticipated to impact the significant features and functions of the Findlay Creek Wetland Natural Area and associated significant natural heritage features provided the important mitigation measures in this report are properly implemented.

References

City of Ottawa. 2015. Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction. August, 2015. 14 pp & Append.

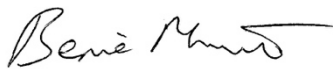
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2010. Natural Heritage Reference Manual for Natural Heritage Policies of the Prov Policy Statement, 2005. Second Edition. March 2010. 233 pp.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2015. Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 6E. January, 2015. 38 pp.

Please call if you have any questions on this EIS Addendum.

Yours Sincerely,

MUNCASTER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INC.



Bernie Muncaster, M.Sc.
Principal

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