

Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des  
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et du Logement

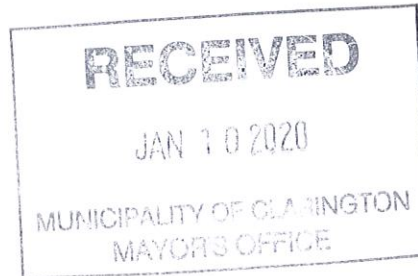
Bureau du ministre

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JAN 10 2020

Your Worship  
Mayor Adrian Foster  
Municipality of Clarington  
[mayor@clarington.net](mailto:mayor@clarington.net)



19-4326

Dear Mayor Foster:

Thank you for your letter dated September 17, 2019 regarding the Municipality of Clarington's Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review. In your letter, you request that I clarify whether the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has identified concerns with the Natural Heritage System (NHS) policies of the Official Plan and the draft zoning by-law in light of significant concerns expressed by local landowners.

It is my understanding that Clarington is updating its existing zoning by-laws to conform with the municipality's Official Plan that was approved by the Region of Durham in 2017. I also understand that recent updates to Clarington's Official Plan, through Amendment 107, were to bring it into conformity with the Region's Official Plan and the applicable provincial policies and plans, including the Greenbelt Plan.

I appreciate you informing me of the local opposition to the zoning by-law mapping and that many landowners are requesting changes to the mapping. As you note, municipalities have 3 years to bring their zoning by-laws into conformity with the official plan. For Clarington, that deadline will be in July 2020. According to your letter, pausing on the review will mean that the municipality may not meet this timeline.

I understand that natural heritage policy conformity is part of Clarington's Zoning Bylaw review and forms a part of the landowners' concerns with the Environmental Protection (EP) mapping. The lands brought into the EP Zone in Clarington include lands that are identified by the province as Greenbelt and NHS as well as additional lands that the province has not required to be zoned EP. Municipalities are permitted to go beyond provincial standards and Clarington has made a policy decision to do that despite local opposition. As this is within your Council's mandate, the Ministry will not comment or interfere with those decisions.

The province views local municipalities as accountable levels of government with the approval authority to update their zoning by-laws and I hope that you are able to manage the local interests as you make policy decisions that impact the mapping.

Once again, thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Clark  
Minister

- c. David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South  
Lindsey Park, MPP Durham  
His Worship John Henry, Durham Regional Chair