Items to be addressed at Nov. 8/11 City of Hamilton Council meeting

First of all I’d like to thank the Mayor and Councillors for accepting my request to address you today.

I represent a number of residents of Trinity Church Road who live across from the Red Hill Business Park (formerly the Glanbrook Industrial Park).

My family and I don’t oppose the currently proposed location of the Maple Leaf plant, at the South West corner of Twenty and Glover Roads, as it has been explained to us that there will be no slaughterhouse, rendering or cleaning of carcasses associated with this plant and that the meat will arrive frozen and will simply require slicing or mincing for final processing. I also understand there will be virtually no odour from this plant. I hope what we have been told by our Councillor, Brenda Johnson, and Maple Leaf staff will actually turn out to be true.

However, there are some items we would like to address regarding some of the housekeeping details around the by-laws to be reviewed in today’s meeting.

1. Definition of “Planting Strip”
   
a. We believe that a “wall” does not constitute a planting strip. Please see proposed changes in the definition of “planting strip” on page 3 of Appendix A of Report PED 11199 in reference to By-Law 05-200.

b. We ask that you do not include language related to a wall in the definition of a planting strip for any Trinity Church Road planting strip but instead specify evergreen trees of a minimum height of four feet high (when first planted) and spaced such that the branches of one touches the branches of the trees on either side to maximize the blocking effect.

c. This is still considered a rural area and a “wall” would not fit in and in fact draw more attention to the fact that a Business Park butts up next to a residential rural area.

d. Also the word “low” as it related to “low architectural wall” is not defined in the proposed changes.

2. A Berm plus planting strip promised to Trinity Church Road residents for area abutting Red Hill Business Park (formerly Glenbrook Industrial Park)
   
a. Some 50 years ago the following residents of Trinity Church gathered on the Woolcott’s old property to discuss future use of the Court’s farm (420 Trinity Church Road) – which is part of the Business Park:
      i. Turnbulls
      ii. Dwyers
iii. Bishops
iv. Woolcotts
v. Burns
vi. Mr. Court Senior

b. It was agreed that if the resident’s agreed to the Industrial zoning of Mr. Court’s agricultural land that a six foot high berm plus planting strip would be installed on the West side of Trinity Church Road so that the residents on the East side of Trinity Church across from the Court’s farm would be shielded from the buildings and activities in the future industrial park.

c. Currently no Hamilton by-laws contain such language.
   i. No Councillor or City staff have the right to exclude the berm and planting strip from by-law language. This was agreed on 50 years.
   ii. We have been given reassurance from Councillor Johnson in an email that Mr. Al Fletcher, City Planner, will be revising the by-law language to include what was promised to the residents of Trinity Church Road 50 years ago.
   iii. I would like the Councillors and Mayor’s commitment today that the berm and planting strip language, as noted in my comments to you today, will be supported in a revision of all by-laws related to the Red Hill Business Park and Trinity Church Road.

3. Noise Study for Maple Leaf
   a. Last week, I observed two strange men hanging around my mailbox around the dinner time. They had two cars and seemed to be placing something in a tree.
   b. I approached them and asked them a number of questions regarding their activities. At first they lied and said they didn’t know who commissioned the noise study but after they admitted it was Maple Leaf. Having no proof of approval from the City to place a sensor on City property and quite frankly being suspicious because they outright lied to me I asked them to remove the sensor until I could contact my local Councillor, Brenda Johnson.
   c. I take offense to the lies that these researchers told. We are not here to obstruct the construction of this plant at the South West corner of Twenty and Glover Roads; however, actions and secrecy will only serve to continue to irritate local residents and cause us to continue to mistrust local government.
   d. I hope for more from my Councillors and City staff and from this day forward I expect an open and honest rapport between local government and local residents.
   e. Some notes regarding the Noise Study:
i. It is clear that Maple Leaf is concerned about the effect of truck noise on local residents on Trinity Church Road.

ii. It is also clear to me that the technicians did not know what they were doing. They were attempting to hang a noise sensor with a metal chain around the truck of a tree.

iii. Typically noise sensors are attached firmly to unobstructed obstacles.
   1. Chains and branch noise will cause incorrect readings on these sensors and cause baseline readings to be much higher than reality.

iv. Also please note that for years we, as residents, have been complaining to local government, staff and police about the illegal truck traffic (and speeding) along Trinity Church Road – this will skew noise results and add what is unacceptable and illegal noise to the baseline readings of this study.

v. Also note that it is harvest season and the farmer, next to where this noise sensor will be placed, will be harvesting his crop. This will also add, what is a temporary, short-term increase in noise in the area, to the baseline measures.

vi. I submit that the above comments be taken very seriously and a proper study be conducted, not one that seems to ignore important variables.

vii. I also request that trucks enter the proposed Maple Leaf plant from Twenty Road and transverse along the West side of the plant to access loading docks.

viii. We request that Maple Leaf truck scheduling take into account the fact that residential areas are nearby and be sensitive to sleeping hours in the scheduling of the trucks.

On other matters:
We have for years requested speed limit reductions and more stop signs on Trinity Church Road. Fletchers Road has been provided with four-way stops at every intersection. We have also been asking for a digital radar speed read-out unit for months; however Upper Mount Albion Road and more recently this past week Fletchers Road got those read-out units – not us.

The residents of Trinity Church Road have been dumped on enough – we had to put up with High Pressure Sewage line spillage and odours for two years recently, illegal truck usage and speeders for many, many years ongoing and personally four vehicles running off the road, and sometimes across or landing upside down on my property.
I’m asking today for this Council to serious do something about it and reduce the speed limit on Trinity Church to 50km/h from Binbrook Road to Rymal Road (minimally from Participation House to Rymal Road) and also place 3 way stops signs at the intersections of Airport Road, Guyatt Road, Dickenson Road, Golf Club Road and Pinehill Drive.

Thank you for your attention.
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