



Planning Services Update

On April 15, 2020, the Ontario Government passed Regulation 149/20 to implement *Planning Act* amendments that establish special procedural rules for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

As a result of this new Regulation, Notices of Decision circulated for *Planning Act* applications released on or after February 26, 2020 and before April 15, 2020 are now considered invalid. If you have received a Notice of Decision outlining a municipal decision and appeal rights under the *Planning Act* for any of the following applications, the previous notice is considered null and void and will be re-issued to all parties who have requested notice:

- B20-01 – Severance application for 24 Alfred Street
- SD-19-01 – Draft Plan of Subdivision for Maple Ridge
- ZA-20-01 – Zoning By-law Amendment for Bellamy Farms Phase 1 & 2

Ontario Regulation 149/20 does not prohibit the continuation of Public Meetings or decisions made by the municipality under the *Planning Act*, however we will be scheduling public meetings in a modified virtual format that conforms with Provincial prohibitions on public gatherings but accommodates the essential process of engaging the public in the planning process. The Town has established a protocol to conduct Public Meetings for the duration of the state of emergency and expects to resume Public Meetings regarding *Planning Act* matters in May 2020.

Please Note that Regulation 149/20 effectively supercedes the limitations previously outlined through the emergency Regulation 73/20 passed on March 20th as it relates to planning matters. As such, the Town's planning processes have evolved to align with the new legislation and this update reflects that. We will continue to monitor the legislative responses to the emergency and will update the community as required.

The Municipal Office remains closed to the public until further notice; however, staff can continue to be reached through phone and email and are committed to ensuring the continuity of planning service operations.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging and unpredictable time. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Karl Grenke

Senior Planner

613-283-4124 ext. 1116

kgrenke@smithsfalls.ca