

February 6, 2021

Mayor & Council,
Township of King
clerks@king.ca



85 DARIOLE DRIVE
RICHMOND HILL, ON L4E 0Z4

Dear Mayor & Council

RE: GMS-PL-2021-005 REQUESTS FOR LAND DEVELOPMENT BY AFOI AT MARYLAKE

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) wishes to point out that the LTC idea being put forward lacks a good feasible argument and is completely wrong for this location. The LTC system has been broken for decades and needs to be overhauled into a not-for profit model before confidence is restored and more facilities are necessary. The public has lost faith in the greedy for profit LTC model whereby \$74 million of federal funding earmarked to support the homes has gone to shareholder dividends. There are at present 3640 more available spaces in Ontario LTC due to Covid19 and that number is growing daily. Many seniors are now thinking twice about ever going near such a place.

If AFOI needs a financial injection, YREA suggests they approach the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to explore options with the possibility of coming to an equitable arrangement for all. Be it purchase of a portion of the land, organic farmland conservation easement whereby AFOI would receive income on leased farmland and NCC a tax receipt or similar scenarios that would preserve the environmental and ecological integrity of the property while affording AFOI compensation. The Nature Conservancy has a long history of successful property managements and AFOI might benefit from a partnership with them.

A relationship with NCC would also ensure the protection of this environmentally sensitive and important property without destroying ecosystem function - habitat for a diverse number of species, carbon storage, water purification and flood control. The proposals thrown out for this site thus far will not do this. It is time to get creative and think outside the box for a solution that would benefit all.

Sincerely

Gloria Marsh, Executive Director
York Region Environmental Alliance

Partnering for a greener planet

<http://www.yrea.org>