

Quarry haul route review should be halted: Town

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The Town is calling on the City of Hamilton to halt its review of a traffic and haul route study for the proposed St. Marys quarry in northeast Flamborough, near Campbellville.

At its meeting Monday night, the Town's administration and planning committee endorsed a staff recommendation to that effect.

It asks for the review to cease until environmental and hydrogeology reports have been provided.

The resolution also calls for up to \$30,000 from the Town's reserves to be earmarked for a peer review of studies that've been completed on the proposed quarry.

The request for Hamilton comes as a result of St. Marys' consultants' recent conclusion that the preferred haul route for trucks going to and from the quarry should be entirely in Milton, running north on Milborough Line, east on Campbellville Road to Twiss Road, north to Reid Sideroad to then access Hwy. 401.

A staff report from Town Director of Planning and Development Mel Iovio said neither the Town nor the Region is satisfied with the justification for the haul route choice.

"The methodology of how the criteria was assessed or weighted isn't provided, and it's therefore our opinion that it's premature to take a preferred route to any public forum," the report said.

St. Marys has already scheduled a public information session regarding the haul route for this Monday from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Carlisle Arena, with a presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Colin Best said he's driven all of the proposed haul routes and come up with a recommendation -- "no haul route." His suggestion was met with applause from the residents in attendance.

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau said St. Marys is putting the cart before the horse with its haul route plans.

"If this application doesn't go forth, there's no need for a haul route," she said.

The committee also heard from Graham Flint, chair of FORCE, or Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment, which is opposed to the quarry proposal.

He urged the committee to "tell St. Marys enough is enough and support the staff recommendations to halt the process until the work is complete and has been thoroughly reviewed."

He also suggested St. Marys should pay for the Town's peer review, not taxpayers.

But Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray said she has no problem with Milton paying for the review.

"I think it's important for residents on this side of the border to see the support from the Town of Milton."

Lunau said she thinks having a Town-commissioned review "is the only way we can trust the report."

"If the report is commissioned by St. Marys it could be tainted by their interests," she said.

Ward 2 Councillor Greg Nelson also voiced his support for spending \$30,000 on the review.

The item will go before town council Monday night for consideration.

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