

From: [Julianne Lyons](#)
To: [Wilma Wotten](#); [Ian McDougall](#); [Harold Wright](#); [Terry Coyne](#); [Robert Rock](#); [Janna Guido](#); [David LeRoy](#)
Cc: [Scugog Clerks](#)
Subject: Proposal for a Minister's Zoning Order
Date: September 10, 2024 9:36:22 PM

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Cc: clerks@scugog.ca
Subject: Proposal for a Minister's Zoning Order

Dear Madame Mayor and Members of Council,

RE: Proposal for a Minister's Zoning Order ("MZO")

My name is Juli Lyons and I am a newcomer to Scugog Township. My sister and I bought a small patch of land here three years ago, just outside of Caesarea, and we love it. We have experienced every day what a special place this is.

One of the things that has really struck me during my short time here is the many, many people who grew up here and stayed. They didn't leave to find greener pastures somewhere else. They stayed, and raised their own families here. I imagine all of you, or many of you, were born here, raised here and you, too, chose to build your life and raise your families here. It is a remarkable thing, and all too rare. So many communities are not like this. Young people leave.

With that in mind, I can fully understand why you would want to build affordable housing. You're hoping that the next generation and the generation after that will continue the tradition and stay where the roots are deep and the sense of community is strong.

When the plans for the Avenu housing project started to unfold last spring, I could understand the why of it.

But, what really surprised me, in a place with such a strong sense of community, was the lack of communication between the municipality and the people who live here. You are all of this place, and have deep roots here. I couldn't understand why there was no conversation going on. Hats off to Avenu who did extensive consultation, but that is not the same and shouldn't replace the conversation between the leadership of this community and the people who live here.

I was also quite dismayed that council didn't themselves reach out to the MSIFN. Again, in a place where community is important, it was antithetical to community to not reach out and to instead rely on the proponent to be the ones to consult with them.

Consequently, cracks have developed between the leadership here and the citizenry.

I asked a friend who has lived here for decades, what it was like to experience the commotion that has resulted these past few months. As a new kid, I had no context for what was going on. They said, it's like a bomb's gone off. That's how tumultuous and difficult it's been, in their view.

In a community where there is a strong sense of place, where people here can tell the stories of the generations who came before them, and know the history of the land, and the joy of the lake, it feels as though something big is at stake right now. When a bomb goes off, the reverberations are huge, and things get broken.

At a time like this, there needs to be way more dialogue with the community, including the MSIFN, not less. There needs to be more respect not less for the land and water, especially in a place where people remember what the land and the lake were like, and can still tell the stories.

All to say that I believe the MZO will only make things worse for the community - and the land, not better.

If you are going to build something, build the legacy of your leadership: build and strengthen the community, honour the land and the water. Future generations will thank you for it.

Housing - and affordable housing, can be created in other ways and in other places. And, with due respect to Avenu, who have worked hard to create something cutting edge and imaginative, the price is too high to build it using an MZO.

Please don't pursue an MZO application. Do the due diligence, and build a future that future generations will thank you for.

Juli Lyons
Nestleton Station

Sent from my iPhone