

August 15, 2022

Dear Members of London's Planning and Environment Committee: (pec@London.ca)

- Councillor Hopkins (Chair),
- Councillor Lehman,
- Councillor Lewis,
- Councillor Hillier,
- Councillor Turner

On behalf of Friends of the Earth, I'm writing to urge you, at your next meeting, to review and accept Susan McKee's appeal against the weed wacking of her pollinator garden. Please quash her fine and bills. Should you refer the matter to another Committee, we ask you to provide clear support for timely, positive action.

This is a critical time for municipalities to do all they can to support biodiversity. Friends of the Earth notes that London has made important commitments in its official plan including to "Establish London as a key pollinator sanctuary within our region (Policy 58 in Key Directions) and to "Promote London as a pollinator sanctuary, considering how we can create and support environments that are conducive to pollinators in all of the planning and public works we are involved with, recognizing the important role that pollinators play in our long-term food security.

In line with these policies, we ask you to modernize all relevant By-laws to ensure they are consistent with your pollinator commitments and they respect the rights of citizens to do what they can to protect nature. We recommend you:

1. Modernize the relevant By-laws to address only those plants and properties which threaten health and safety of residents, or that are invasive and threaten natural areas;
2. Require complainants under the By-law to specify how a garden is out of compliance;
3. Remove language from the By-law and any explanatory materials that is subjective or based upon aesthetic interpretation; and,
4. Provide training to By-law enforcement officials to ensure their competence.

At your up-coming meeting, we ask you to accept Ms McKee's appeal and take urgent steps to modernize London's relevant By-laws as noted above. While you are acting on this matter, we ask that you instruct your By-law enforcers to refrain from destroying pollinator gardens in London.

I consent to having this email letter placed on the City of London's public agenda.

Sincerely yours,



Beatrice Olivastri, CEO