

Kannakko, Kris (MNR)

From: Gaweda, Joanna (MNR)
Sent: September 12, 2006 3:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: ANSI's, Alvars, Significant Wildlife Habitat

Joanna Gaweda

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gaweda, Joanna (MNR)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2006 3:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Coulson, Daryl (MNR)
Subject: RE: ANSI's, Alvars, Significant Wildlife Habitat

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Hello Paula,

Just to recap what I conveyed on the phone earlier today:

1. The County of Renfrew is the agency who will approve the Official Plan (OP); this may not involve the MNR, and we would only be involved if requested through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Their website contains information regarding decisions made under the Planning Act, the PPS, consultation, etc (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles>)
2. Larry Cotton, Township Planner (author of OP) is available at the County of Renfrew office at 613-735-3204. He had pre-consulted with staff in our office regarding existing data, natural heritage features, information about the Alvar; he also indicated a secondary plan for the Alvar area may be an option for the Township to pursue do to the various land use conflicts and the Alvar's sensitivity.
3. As we pointed out to Larry, sources of information about Alvar habitats include 'Alvars of Ontario' (2000), published by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists; The Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (MNR, 2000) is available through MNR's website: (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/pubs/pubmenu.html>) . As mentioned to Larry this document discusses Alvar habitat characteristics and sensitivities. Also, your Naturalist Club may be a source of information. Individuals in our Ministry who have experience with Alvar habitats, located at the Natural Heritage Information Centre, include W.D. Bakowsky (705) 755-2162 and M.J. Oldham (705) 755-2160.
4. MNR is not in a position to identify (map) significant *wildlife habitat*, and in the past has provided what we can (ie. deer yard boundaries). In the case of McNab, we've mapped at a course scale

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and shared 'candidate or suggested significant wildlife habitat areas'. The Township should consider these areas, and determine if they meet the Township's criteria for significance.

5. To reiterate, it is not possible to know of and have identified (ie. mapped with precision) at any given time absolutely all natural heritage features (ie. significant wildlife habitat, important wetlands, significant woodlands, etc) in a municipality (costs, property access issues, changing environments), however it is the Township's responsibility to address all natural heritage features in Section 2.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (ie. all decisions-including severances, approving an OP, etc- under the Planning Act *must be consistent with the PPS*). It is the Township's responsibility to either identify the natural areas on schedules, or adequately address them through text, in the form of clear and comprehensive development criteria and, in most cases, requirements for some form of environmental impact assessment prior to Council approving development in a natural area.
6. In case you have any questions for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Planner, Joe Gallivan, his number is (613) 545-2116.

Please let me know if you need any clarification on the above.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Coulson, Daryl (MNR)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2006 3:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Gaweda, Joanna (MNR)
Subject: FW: ANSI's

Hi Paula,

In reply to email and verbal requests for information on designating an area as an ANSI, I offer the following.

The ANSI program has a very long and complicated history in the Province of Ontario. To summarize the general approach of designating an area, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) are assigned formal status and significance by MNR following an ANSI confirmation process or procedure. (Although there are a limited number of sites approved as ANSI's in a landuse planning exercise undertaken in the early 1980's) The confirmation process follows the identification of candidate ANSI sites in an Ecodistrict report, which considers representation of vegetative communities with considerations of climate, physiography, vegetation, and soils to identify those sites considered to be the best representative natural areas for a given set or combination of natural values within the subject Ecodistrict.

The Ecodistrict report for 6E-16 (area between Petawawa and Kanata in what is generally the agricultural zone along the Ottawa River) is currently in preparation by this office and is expected to be in draft form in the spring of 2007. This report will identify at a landscape scale those natural areas considered to be candidate ANSI's. Once identified as candidate sites, each site will require a detailed assessment (ANSI

confirmation procedure) in order to confirm they provide significant representation of life science features prior to being formally approved as ANSI's. This confirmation procedure is a detailed assessment of the proposed site through undertaking of fauna and flora inventories, landowner contact, public consultation, etc., and is expensive in terms of time and money to undertake.

Despite the absence of formal ANSI designations in a given area, a number of significant natural areas can be appropriately considered and protected in landuse planning by their designation and consideration as Significant Wildlife Habitat under provisions of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) based upon known and expected values. Municipalities are obligated to follow the PPS requirements in development of planning documents and the review of development proposals.

For further information on the PPS from MNR's perspective, please contact Joanna Gaweda of this office. Her phone number is 613-732-5522.

You can successfully Google a number of ANSI related items, but I would also suggest visiting the following website, and using one of the search windows at this site for 'ANSI'. A number of ANSI related documents will come up, including the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide that may be of particular interest to you. http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/nhic_.cfm

I trust this assists you with your interests and efforts.
Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Daryl Coulson

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