

Kannakko, Kris (MNR)

From: Gaweda, Joanna (MNR)
Sent: May 30, 2007 10:06 AM
To: Baldwin, Mitch (MNR); Hyde, Al (MNR)
Cc: Moreau, Paul (MNR); Punt, Kirby (MNR)
Subject: Alvar-Mcnab- options for municipal piece
Attachments: Braeside Alvar_options_to Bruce_May31.07.doc

Hello,
Are you ok with this response? I'll send Mitch and Al the request from Bruce. Please see me with any suggestions ☺
Thank you

Ministry of
Natural Resources
31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, ON
K8A 8R6

Ministère des
Richesses naturelles



May 31, 2007

Bruce Howarth
Planner, Township of McNab Braeside
County of Renfrew
9 International Drive
Pembroke, ON
K8A 6W5

Mr. Howarth:

RE: Options to classify and protect the Braeside Alvar for use in new Official Plan

You have requested information to support options analysis as to the steps the Council of McNab Braeside could take to classify and offer appropriate protection measures for the Braeside Alvar. Your questions focus specifically on the 120 acre portion of the feature in municipal ownership.

As discussed, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Pembroke District offers the following information:

Option 1: The Township could decide to designate (and in the future zone) this area as Environmental Protection or Natural Heritage Feature. Policies could prohibit future development on the property or require various levels of assessment to ensure no negative impacts would result from development proposals.

Option 2: The Township could decide to consider designation (and future zoning) as Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH). To qualify as SWH, the property would need to meet specific biological criteria for alvars as provided by the province (see attached Significant Wildlife Technical Guide, 2000 pg. 7,8 and Draft criteria for Eco-region 6E) or *meet criteria established by the municipality which achieve the provincial objective* (Provincial Policy Statement, pg. 36, 'Significant').

The Township could hire a consultant biologist with general botanical experience, to determine if the alvar on this property meets the above criteria and to recommend the necessary level of protection. An alvar with any of the alvar indicator plants listed within Table N-1 Appendix N of the SWH Technical Guide would be considered a SWH. If the alvar has any of the indicator plant species, the area of the alvar should be delineated, mapped, considered confirmed SWH and appropriately treated in the OP policies.

Generally, development within SWH can proceed provided the proposal is supported by an assessment or biological report that demonstrates there will be no negative impacts on the natural features and functions of the habitat as a result of the development. The impacts to features and functions in the adjacent lands (recommended by the province as 50 meters from the SWH or a distance determined by the municipality based on biological work by the consultant), would need to be addressed.

Additionally, the Braeside Alvar is much more extensive than the 120 acre municipal parcel and is almost exclusively in private ownership. Some level of biological assessment should be considered for this larger area, and appropriate policy adopted in the new Official Plan, to ensure as planning proposals are reviewed, the features and functions are addressed and impacts mitigated on a site specific level. This alvar is an important part of the natural heritage system in the municipality (as discussed in section 2.1.2 of the PPS). Most of the alvar also contains deer yarding/wintering areas, which also constitute Significant Wildlife Habitat, based on separate criteria.

Currently the MNR does not have the capacity to partner with the municipality in an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) confirmation process. This would likely require extensive public consultation, verification studies and in the end policies for an ANSI achieve the same level of protection as those for Significant Wildlife Habitat. Our office would offer technical assistance to any biological consultant using the MNR's SWH Technical Guide.

With clarification questions please contact me at 613-732-5522 or Joanna.gaweda@ontario.ca.

Yours truly,

Joanna Gaweda
District Planner
Pembroke District
/jg

c. John Macdonald, Planner, Ministry of Municipal Affairs