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SENT ELECTRONICALLY (ls Spencer@westgrey.com)

August 31, 2020

Municipality of West Grey
Committee of Adjustment
402813 Grey Road 4, RR#2
Durham ON, N0G 1R0

ATTENTION: Lorelie Spencer, Planner

Dear Ms. Spencer,

RE: Application for Consent to Sever B03/2020
502413 Concession 10 NDR
Roll No. 420528000705301
Lot 30 Concession 11
Geographic Township of Bentinck
Municipality of West Grey (1993934 Ontario Inc. c/o Tremble)

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) staff has reviewed the above-noted application as per our delegated responsibility from the Province to represent provincial interests regarding natural hazards identified in Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020) and as a regulatory authority under Ontario Regulation 169/06 (SVCA's Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation). SVCA staff has also provided comments as per our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Municipality of West Grey representing natural hazards and natural heritage; and the application has been reviewed through SVCA's role as a public body under the *Planning Act* as per our CA Member approved Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual, amended October 16, 2018.

The purpose of the proposed consent is to sever a portion of an existing rural lot and retain a rural lot.

Staff have received and reviewed the following documents submitted with this application:

- 1) Request for Agency Comments and attached Site Plan

Recommendation

SVCA staff find the application acceptable and elaborate in the following pages.

Site Characteristics

The rural property is located on the northwest corner of Concession 10 NDR and the 30th Sideroad, in former Bentinck Township. The 30th Sideroad cuts off a corner of the property which is mainly wetland. There is an existing dwelling and accessory buildings as shown on SVCA's aerial photography



Watershed Member Municipalities
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands,
Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce,
Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington North,
Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey

Delegated Responsibility and Advisory Comments

SVCA staff has reviewed the application through our delegated responsibility from the Province to represent provincial interests regarding natural hazards identified in Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020). We have also reviewed the application through our responsibilities as a service provider to the Municipality of West Grey in that we provide expert advice and technical clearance on *Planning Act* applications with regards to natural hazards, natural heritage, and water resources as set out in the PPS 2020, County Official Plan and/or local official plans. Comments below only include features/technical requirements affecting the property.

Natural Hazards:

SVCA hazard mapping indicates areas of the property are wetland. It is SVCA staff's opinion that portions of the property are zoned Natural Environment (NE) in the Municipality of West Grey Zoning By-Law 37-2006 and designated Hazard lands in the Grey County Official Plan. In general, it is SVCA's interpretation that no new buildings or structures are permitted within the NE Zone as per the West Grey Zoning By-Law 37-2006 Section 31. It appears all existing buildings and structures are outside the NE Zone. SVCA staff are of the opinion that while the Grey County OP Hazard designation closely reflect SVCA Hazard mapping, the NE Zone does not match as closely. The NE Zone should follow the 30th Sideroad. SVCA staff recommend adjusting the NE Zone at the next available opportunity.

Provincial Policy Statement – Section 3.1

Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement dictates that development shall be directed away from hazardous sites, in this case the wetland area. The application generally appears to be consistent with Section 3.1 of the PPS.

Grey County Official Plan Policies

Organic or unstable soils, poorly drained areas, and floodplains are considered Hazard Lands and detailed in Section 7.2 of the Grey County Official Plan. Further, these policies state that no buildings or structures will be permitted within the Hazard lands. The application generally appears to be consistent with Section 7.2 of the Grey County OP.

Natural Heritage:

In the opinion of SVCA staff, the subject property features Significant Woodlands, potentially Significant Wildlife Habitat and potentially the Habitat of Endangered and Threatened Species. The NE Zone and Hazard designation encompass a portion of the significant woodland.

Significant Woodlands

Significant Woodlands are identified as those which are greater than or equal to 40 hectares in size outside of settlement areas and can also be significant if there is overlap with Significant Valleylands, as per section 7.4 of the Grey County OP.

Provincial Policy Statement – Section 2.1

Section 2.1.5 (b) of the Provincial Policy Statement dictates that development and site alteration shall not be permitted within significant woodlands nor shall it be permitted on adjacent lands (Section 2.1.8) to significant woodlands unless it has been evaluated and demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts. While the proposed severance is within adjacent lands to significant woodlands, no new development is proposed and SVCA staff are of the opinion that the impact to the woodlands will be negligible. The application is generally consistent with Section 2.1 on the PPS.

Grey County Official Plan Policies

Section 7.4(1) of the Grey County OP states that no development or site alteration may be permitted on or within lands adjacent to significant woodlands unless it has been demonstrated through an environmental impact study that there will be no negative impact on the feature. While the proposed severance is within adjacent lands to significant woodlands, SVCA staff are of the opinion that the impact to the woodlands will be negligible. The application is generally consistent with the Grey County OP.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

While mapping showing significant wildlife habitat is not included in the Grey County OP, it has come to the attention of SVCA staff that significant wildlife habitat may be located on and/or on lands adjacent to the property.

Provincial Policy Statement – Section 2.1

Section 2.1.5 (d) of the Provincial Policy Statement dictates that development and site alteration shall not be permitted in significant wildlife habitat nor shall it be permitted on adjacent lands (Section 2.1.8) to significant wildlife habitat unless it has been evaluated and demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts. While the severance proposed may be within significant wildlife habitat, SVCA staff are of the opinion that the impact to the habitat will be negligible, as no new development is proposed. The application is generally consistent with Section 2.1 of the PPS.

Grey County Official Plan Policies

Section 7.10 of the Grey County OP states that development and site alteration is not permitted within significant wildlife habitat and their adjacent lands unless it has been demonstrated through an EIS that there will be no negative impact on the feature. While the severance proposed is within significant wildlife habitat, SVCA staff are of the opinion that the impact to the habitat will be negligible, as no new development is proposed. The application is generally consistent with the Grey County OP.

Threatened and Endangered Species

It has come to the attention of SVCA staff that habitat of endangered or threatened species may be located on and adjacent to the property. Our role is to identify habitat through a screening process in consideration of PPS and local policies, however it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the endangered and threatened species policy referred to in the PPS has been appropriately addressed. Please contact the Ministry of

Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for information on how to address this policy. MECP inquiries can be addressed to SAROntario@ontario.ca.

Provincial Policy Statement – Section 2.1

Section 2.1.7 of the Provincial Policy Statement dictates that development and site alteration shall not be permitted within habitat of threatened or endangered species.

Grey County Official Plan Policies

Section 7.10 of the Grey County OP states that development and site alteration will not be permitted within the habitat of threatened or endangered species.

Statutory Comments

SVCA staff has reviewed the application as per our responsibilities as a regulatory authority under Ontario Regulation 169/06 (SVCA's Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation). This regulation, made under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, enables SVCA to regulate development in or adjacent to river or stream valleys, Great Lakes and inland lake shorelines, watercourses, hazardous lands and wetlands. Subject to the CA Act, development taking place on or adjacent to these lands may require permission from SVCA to confirm that the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land are not affected. SVCA also regulates the alteration to or interference in any way with a watercourse or wetland.

A small portion of the retained parcel is within the SVCA 'Approximate Screening Area' associated with Ontario Regulation 169/06. As such, development and/or site alteration within this area requires the permission from SVCA, prior to carrying out the work.

"Development" as defined under the *Conservation Authorities Act* means:

- a) *the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind;*
- b) *any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure;*
- c) *site grading; or,*
- d) *the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere.*

And;

"Alteration" as per Section 5 of Ontario Regulation 169/06 generally includes the straightening, diverting or interference in any way with a river, creek, stream or watercourse, or the changing or interfering in any way with a wetland.

To determine the SVCA Approximate Regulated Area on the property, please refer to the SVCA's online mapping program, available via the SVCA's website at <http://eprweb.svca.on.ca>. Should you require assistance, please contact our office directly.

SVCA Permission for Development or Alteration

If development or alteration including construction, reconstruction, conversion, grading, filling or excavation, including agricultural tile drainage, is proposed within the Approximate Screening Area on the proposed retained parcel, the SVCA should be contacted, as permission may be required.

Summary

SVCA staff has reviewed this application in accordance with our MOA with the Municipality of West Grey and as per our mandated responsibilities for natural hazard management, including our regulatory role under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The proposed zoning by-law amendment is considered acceptable by SVCA staff; however we

Given the above comments, it is the opinion of the SVCA staff that:

- 1) Consistency with Section 3.1, Natural Hazard policies of the PPS has been demonstrated.
- 2) Consistency with Section 2.1, Natural Heritage policies of the PPS has been demonstrated; with the exception of policy 2.1.7 of the PPS, Threatened and Endangered Species, which must be addressed by MECP.
- 3) Consistency with local planning policies for natural hazards and natural heritage has been demonstrated; with the exception of policy 7.10 of the Grey County OP, Threatened and Endangered Species, which must be addressed by the MECP.

Please inform this office of any decision made by the Municipality of West Grey with regard to this application. We respectfully request to receive a copy of the decision and notice of any appeals filed.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned Megan Stansfield at m.stansfield@svca.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Megan Stansfield
Environmental Planning Technician
Saugeen Conservation
MS/

cc: Christine Robinson, Authority Member, SVCA (via email)
Tom Hutchinson, Authority Member, SVCA (via email)