

Subject: Letter to Board Members of Metrolinx to be read at annual meeting on September 10, 2020

From: Dirk or Suzanne Duiker Kroon [REDACTED]

Sent: September-07-20 3:55 PM

To: Chair of Metrolinx

Subject: Letter to Board Members of Metrolinx to be read at annual meeting on September 10, 2020

Dear Board CEO,

I am writing this letter to the Metrolinx Board as requested on your website. I posted my comments (below in italics) on the community engagement site around 5 p.m. on August 28, but they did not appear (although later comments *were* published), and hope you will read them now. I did copy and send them to my 'democratically elected political representatives' (city councillors, mayor, MPP, MP and the Minister of Transportation). I've also since contacted Premier Doug Ford. I urge you to respect the community's wishes and the gift of Margaret Greene's family of land to be used as a public park *forever*, and to **find a more appropriate location for your TPS!**

Excuse me for my cynicism, but you've already put in the high-security fence for your preferred TPS site. Do you really expect the community to believe that after that investment of time and money you are open to our input? Or that you hadn't already chosen that particular site last winter already?

Not only did you NOT inform most of the folks who use the trail what you were up to, you did it while my main source of community news (the biweekly free Mercury-Tribune newspaper) was not being delivered and all of us had bigger things, like coping with a pandemic, on our minds. You could easily have posted notices in the park itself, distributed questionnaires to neighbours, supplied a toll-free phone # to call--I'm sure there are more methods. And, if one in fact knew that Round 2 of the 'open house' was scheduled (and there are those among us for whom the technology involved with a virtual open house is far too daunting to allow true participation!), note that it was scheduled for only a few weeks, from July 22-August 12, a time many (including me) were away during the summer holidays. It was a neighbour's letter that alerted me to all of this on my return; thank goodness the deadline was extended or I would have missed it. Belittled, ignored, insulted, angered, disrespected; those are some of the words I'd use to describe my reaction.

I strongly support an improved transit system, and the move to electrification. We purchased an electric car several years ago, and think longingly of the bike and rail infrastructures in Europe. So why do I oppose this Metrolinx decision? I do so enjoy the soul-healing balm of the Margaret Greene naturalization area, as do many others--young and old, two-footed and four! I've taken many photos and

walks, noticed trees growing, met friends, become familiar with the woods. For several years, my family has formed a cleanup team for Guelph's annual Earth Day Cleanup. This spring, the area was much used by families with school-aged kids--so glad they've had that resource to use! Why can't you find somewhere that isn't used and enjoyed by so many? To top that off, I'm told that Margaret Greene's family donated the land from their farm to the City to be used as a public park in perpetuity!

Thanks, and I look forward to your reply!

Suzanne Duiker Kroon

