



January 8, 2010

Mr. Ambrose Moran
Ambrose@AmbroseMoran.com

Dear Mr. Moran:

Thank you for your letter dated December 17, 2009, requesting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appeal the passing of a zoning by-law amendment for the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I am committed to strengthening local autonomy by encouraging municipalities to be responsible for planning the future of their communities and for making land-use planning decisions based on local values and goals. Municipalities are also responsible for ensuring that relevant provincial policy and legislation, including the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), is implemented and applied as required.

While my ministry is responsible for setting out broad land-use planning policy as expressed in the PPS and for assisting municipalities in their Official Plan preparation, municipalities – including the Township – are responsible for implementing and administering their local zoning by-laws.

As you know, the *Planning Act* establishes a clear process whereby individuals and/or groups may bring concerns to the attention of the approval authority, including concerns about the passage of a zoning by-law or amendment thereto. This usually occurs through formal public meetings, open houses, or by way of written comments.

Should individuals oppose a decision made by an approval authority, the *Planning Act* affords them the right to appeal a decision to the OMB. Specifically, a person or public body – who made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to a municipal council before the passage of a zoning by-law or amendment – can appeal the decision to the OMB within 20 days after the day that notice of the by-law is given. Such a person or public body must file with the clerk of the municipality a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and reasons why, accompanied by the fee prescribed under the *Ontario Municipal Board Act*.

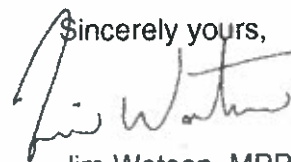
LAST DAY FOR APPEAL WAS JAN 4 TH !

For specific information about how to appeal a zoning by-law to the OMB, you can contact the Board's Citizen's Liaison Office. That office can be reached by telephone at (416) 326-6800 or 1-866-887-8820 toll-free; or by e-mail at OMBCitizenLiaison@Ontario.ca. Additional information about the Board's processes is available on the OMB's website at www.omb.gov.on.ca.

For more information about the Province's zoning appeal provisions, I would encourage you to review section 34 of the *Planning Act*, which can be accessed online at www.ontario.ca/e-laws.

Once again, thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

**I APPEALED
DEC 30 / 2010**

Sincerely yours,

Jim Watson, MPP
Minister