



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: July 18, 2022

Report No: DS-089-22

Subject: Authorization for Submission of a Minor Variance Application on lands municipally known as 48 Bell Street, Milton

Recommendation: THAT Report DS-089-22 entitled “Authorization for Submission of a Minor Variance Application on lands municipally known as 48 Bell Street.”, dated July 18, 2022 be received;

AND THAT in accordance with the provisions of subsections 45(1.4) of the *Planning Act; R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13*, as amended, the Owner shall through this Resolution, be permitted to apply to the Committee of Adjustment for a variance from the provisions of Zoning By-law 081-2020, before the second anniversary of the day on which the by-law was approved by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On October 19, 2020, as recommended through the Mature Neighbourhoods Character Area Study, Milton Council enacted Town-initiated Official Plan Amendment 60 and Zoning By-law 081-2020.
- The amendments introduced new policies and standards that apply to low-density residential development in the Downtown Character Area to ensure that new development is sympathetic to the existing neighbourhood.
- The focus of this report is on the *Planning Act* change that prohibits applying for a minor variance for two years following the passing of a zoning by-law amendment, unless permitted by Council resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The intent of the prohibition is to prevent changes to newly approved policies and zoning provisions, but the effect may hinder legitimate applications that do not negatively affect the general intent and purpose of the new provisions.

REPORT

Background

On December 3, 2015, the Province of Ontario enacted Bill 73 “Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015” which amended the *Planning Act* and *Development Charges Act, 1997*. Several changes to the *Planning Act* came into force on July 1, 2016. One of the changes to the *Planning Act* is the introduction of a two year moratorium (or “freeze”) on three types of amendments, subject to Council’s discretion to provide relief from the prohibition:

1. Amendments of a new Official Plan;
2. Amendments of a new comprehensive Zoning By-law; and
3. Minor variance of a by-law that has already been amended for the land, building or structure.

The focus of this report is on the *Planning Act* change that prohibits applying for a minor variance of a by-law for two years following the passing of a zoning by-law amendment, unless permitted by Council resolution, as detailed below.

Section 45 (1.3)

Subject to subsection (1.4), no person shall apply for a minor variance from the provision of the by-law in respect of the land, building or structure before the second anniversary of the day on which the by-law was amended. 2015, c.26,s.

The only exception to this rule is where Council has declared by resolution, pursuant to Section 45(1.4) of the *Planning Act* that an application can proceed. Section 45(1.4) of the *Planning Act* allows Council to exempt by resolution a specific application, class of applications, or application generally from the two year moratorium.

Section 45(1.4)

Subsection (1.3) does not apply in respect of an application if the council has declared by resolution that such an application is permitted, which resolution may be made in respect of a specific application, class of application or in respect of such applications generally. 2015, c.26, s. 29(2)

Discussion

The Owner of 48 Bell Street has indicated their desire to submit a Minor Variance Application to seek relief from the special Residential Low Density I (RLD1) provisions in the Zoning By-law in order to facilitate the construction of an addition at the rear of the existing dwelling. The following is being requested:

1. To allow 31% lot coverage, whereas 30% is permitted.
2. To allow a rear yard setback of 1.0 metres, whereas 7.5 metres is required.

Since the enactment of Bill 73, the Development Services Department has implemented an approach that assumes no Minor Variance Applications are permitted before the second anniversary of the day on which the by-law was amended, unless Council has declared by resolution that such an application is permitted.

In this instance, staff recommends that Council authorize the Owner to apply to the Committee of Adjustment for variances from the provisions of Zoning By-law 081-2020 for the following reasons:

- The proposed addition represents a small increase in lot coverage that is not visible from the public right of way, and creates no negative impact on the character of the neighbourhood and the street.
- The proposed reduction in rear yard setback represents a continuation of the existing setback that currently accommodates the attached garage. The continuation of this reduced setback will not impact the character of the neighbourhood, nor façade. Further, existing mature tree coverage to the rear minimizes the visual impact of this reduced setback and any effect on surrounding properties.
- The façade treatment and use of materials is proposed to be the same as the existing dwelling and will retain the quality of the street.

Any Minor Variance Application submitted for the subject lands would go through the standard review process, which involves an evaluation by staff of the appropriateness of the Minor Variance Application, through the lens of the four tests set out by Section 45(1) of the *Planning Act*, and a decision of the Committee of Adjustment.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan, MCIP RPP
Commissioner, Development Services



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For questions, please contact: Rachel Suffern, MSc, MPA Phone: Ext. 2263
Planner

Attachments

Figure 1 Location Map

Figure 2 Drawings, Elevations and Site Plan

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.