

Regarding item 5.2, Draft of subdivision application 1700 Strasburg Rd. and McBrine Dr.

The Huron Natural Area plays a much greater role in the future of our ability to continue living here than is being acknowledged.

It not only provides a much needed respite from the wear and tear of modern urban stresses on body and mind, it, vitally, helps stave off the disastrous effects of climate change.

Trees absorb enormous amounts of carbon dioxide. Wetlands store vast amounts carbon. These natural spaces, which work best when they are unbroken and substantial in size within cities, are natural sponges supplying a slow, steady, amount of water to our groundwater aquifers, filtering pollution, and purifying water.

Groundwater supplies based on over harvested natural aquifers can be seriously depleted by growing urban populations.

Habitat loss is a significant driver of climate change; a vicious cycle that further accelerates more habitat loss.

Toxic runoff, noise pollution, loss of biodiversity, heat islands, flooding, water pollution, increases in diseases that jump from animal to human due to habitat loss, invasive species from disturbed environments, and unhealthy levels of air pollution are among the consequences of prioritizing urban growth over the health of our planet.

We are ethically responsible for the natural health of our planet. If we do not protect our natural world, particularly in our increasingly damaged urban environments, we will suffer profound implications for the long term viability of our only home.

There is no compromise when it comes to long term ecological sustainability. Without it, people will not survive.

I urge council to exert great care in urban planning and its consequences on the natural world.

Our unchecked growth and consumption of land and resources is damaging to every living thing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sue Savor