

October 31, 2019

Project 1930

David Goodman Tropical Land Developments Ltd. 1500-439 University Ave. Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

RE: Reforestation Management Plan Mt Pleasant Scoped EIS Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment File Numbers: 21T-18002C; RZ 18-06

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI) was retained in May 2017 by Tropical Land Developments Ltd. to complete a Reforestation Management Plan in conjunction with a Scoped Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for a proposed 8-lot residential development on the partial Lot 27, Concession 8, along Mount Pleasant Road in the village of Palgrave. Initial submission of the Reforestation Management Plan was in July, 2018. NRSI has received comments on this original submission by the Town of Caledon and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), which have been incorporated into this resubmission. Recommendations regarding the re-forestation memo are described below.

Recommendations regarding the re-forestation memo (Appendix X)

In accordance to recommendations provided by the NVCA, the following methods are advised:

- This success will be ensured through the 5-year monitoring plan.
- NRSI acknowledges the recommendation to use mechanical seed-broadcasting methods. Given the timing of broadcasting seed after final crop tilling in the Fall, this is recognized as an effective alternative to mechanical broadcasting promoting germination of native seed and deterring propagation of weedy species. Final tilling and rotation as part of existing agricultural practices will create microtopography for seeds to thrive. It is recognized that some annual species such as Canada Horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), and Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*) may germinate in the following Spring, however this will provide crop cover and deter competition as perennial species establish. This method has been used successfully to hand-broadcast seeds in equal or larger areas, which will be documented and reported through the proposed monitoring plan.
- Quality enhancement measures include the treatment of identified invasive species.

Reforestation Management Plan

The proposed development is located adjacent to a lowland deciduous forest, characterized by Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharinum* ssp. *saccharinum*), with Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and White Elm (*Ulmus americana*). Some invasive species were documented within the forest

community, including European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). The ground layer is characterized by mostly native species including Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*) and White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*).

The Reforestation Management Plan (Map 1) details the proposed shrub and tree species and seed mix within the reforestation area. A companion native seed mix has also been recommended in order to stabilize bare soil, reduce invasive species establishment, and maintain soil moisture to aid in the success of the proposed tree and shrub species. Selected species are based on a variety of factors, including:

- Native species suitable to the macro- and micro-topography,
- Resistance to deer browse,
- The ability to form a dense understorey in order to discourage encroachment and traffic within the forest feature,
- Soil and moisture conditions,
- Aesthetic suitability with surrounding landscape,
- Ability to compete with the documented invasive species, and
- Strategic purpose in creating a long-term established natural forest system.

The proposed restoration plan contains 16 polygons that are tailored to the site topography, expected shade, moisture, and adjacent natural communities. Preliminary details for each polygon can be seen on Map 1, including overall strategy and recommended species.

SAR and SCC Habitat Creation

Based on the results of the Scoped EIS, habitat for 3 SAR have the potential to occur, and 2 SCC were observed within the subject property:

- Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum) Special Concern,
- Red-headed Woodpecker (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) Threatened,
- Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus) Endangered,
- Northern Myotis (Myotis septentrionalis) Endangered,
- Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) Special Concern

Grasshopper Sparrows were observed using the CUM community to the north, as described in the Scoped EIS (NRSI 2018). This habitat is largely being retained, and partially being increased through the meadow species seed mix throughout most polygons (Map1). Polygons are expected to provide meadow and savannah habitat while trees establish and grow. Polygon 1 has been prepared to intentionally provide savannah-like habitat permanently, which will continue to provide habitat for this species while other polygons transition into forest.

Red-headed Woodpecker, and both documented SAR bat species require mature forest stands. This plan supports the retention, buffering, and overall increase in the size of the existing habitat. Sugar Maple and Red Oak have been included in the plan, which provide ideal bat habitat when mature. Monarch larva were observed on a Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) plant along the edge of the forested community, as outlined in the Scoped EIS (NRSI 2018). Monarch require Milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.) as a food source for larva. This planting plan has added Common Milkweed seeds into the seed mix for Polygon 1, 4 and 5 (Map 1). It is expected that this species will endure along the edges of the planting plan, providing increased Monarch habitat.

Land Preparation

Grading is not proposed within the Reforestation Area. Prior to any planting efforts, invasive shrubs and herbaceous species within the subject property will be treated with herbicide as part of quality enhancement measures. Invasive species noted on site include: European Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose, and Garlic Mustard. European Buckthorn and Multiflora Rose are to be treated with Garlon[™] RTU, with a cut and spray or painted stem method during Summer or Fall months. Best management practices are to clip the stem at the base and spray with Garlon[™] RTU. For larger individuals that cannot be clipped, Garlon™ RTU is to be sprayed around the diameter of the stem to girdle the individual. Garlic Mustard is to be treated with Roundup WeatherMAX® in early Spring or late Fall to avoid harming native species. All herbicide treatment is to be prescribed and completed by a licensed professional under the Pesticide Act. Treatment of herbaceous species adjacent to trees should be completed by hand in order to ensure no compaction of the root zones by heavy machinery and ensure that no major tree roots are severed. Final tilling and rotation as part of existing agricultural practices will create microtopography for seeds to thrive. It is recognized that some annual species such as Canada Horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), and Lamb's-guarters (*Chenopodium album*) may germinate in the following Spring, however this will provide crop cover and deter competition as perennial species establish. Seeding should take place after final tilling and rotation of present crop as part of existing farming practices. Immediate seeding of the area after tilling will allow native seeds to proliferate without use of herbicide. Once the Vegetation Protection Zone (VPZ) has been prepared for planting, the area should not be left unvegetated; seeding should commence immediately.

Restoration Planting

The restoration plan should be completed in early spring or late fall (before June 1 or after September 1) to reduce plant stress resulting from transplant shock during the growing season. Survival rates of plantings are expected to be much higher if planted in early spring or late fall. All plantings are to be installed by hand in order to minimize damage to the root zone of trees to be retained. Any damaged or severed roots should be pruned with clean and sharp pruning tools in order to aid in the healthy compartmentalization of the affected root. Planting can occur in the fall along with seeding application, or in the following spring. Young woody plants, including many in this restoration plan, are susceptible to deer browse. Shrubs should be planted in small groupings of similar species to encourage successful colonies. It is recommended that guards are provided for all installed caliper trees, if planted, and all shrubs with large enough stems, including Alternate-leaved Dogwood and Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*). A deer and rodent deterrent, such as "Skoot" should be applied to all new plantings to maximize survival.

Maintenance

Trees and shrubs require deep-watering during an establishment period of approximately 2 years. Watering of the VPZ should be done at a minimum of once weekly from April to October during the first 2 years of establishment. Watering can be done in part through the use of "TreeGator" bags in order to ensure slow and deep-water penetration, or through gentle hose watering on "rain" or "shower" settings, avoiding leaves and stems. Watering should be done

before 10am or after 7pm in order to reduce sun scorch. Soil should be allowed to dry between watering.

Monitoring

Detailed qualitative post-construction monitoring of the restoration plan will be completed 1 year following planting, as well as once in Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5. A summary letter will be provided to the Town of Caledon outlining the findings during each year of monitoring. Table 2 outlines the tasks to be completed in each year of monitoring.

Recommendations involving any signs of misuse or notable vegetation dieback will be provided and reported to the Town for comment.

Monitoring	
Year	Tasks to be Completed
Year 1	 Establishment of fixed photo plots to document any changes in vegetation,
	 Qualitative analysis of abundances of all observed species,
	 Treatment of any establishing invasive species, and
	 Recommendations on continued maintenance, if needed.
Year 2	Continued fixed photo plot
	 Qualitative analysis of abundances of all observed species,
	 Quantitative tally of all planted woody species,
	 Replacement of any dead or poorly established individuals, and
	 Treatment of any establishing invasive species.
Year 3	Continued fixed photo plot
	 Qualitative analysis of abundances of all observed species, and
	 Treatment of any establishing invasive species.
Year 5	Continued fixed photo plot
	 Qualitative analysis of abundances of all observed species, and
	 Treatment of any establishing invasive species.

Table 1. Post-Construction Monitoring of Vegetation Protection Zone

Conclusion

This Reforestation Management Plan will provide protection for the natural features present within and adjacent to the subject property. The increased vegetated area will provide habitat for wildlife, including Monarch, Grasshopper Sparrow and Eastern Wood-Pewee. The companion seed mix will provide additional host plants and food sources for significant butterfly species, as well as other insects. The trees and meadow seed mix will mimic natural

succession and will provide low ground cover and refuge for wildlife. The dense tree and shrub plantings will provide a visual barrier between the natural features and the development, as well as restrict light and noise penetration into the surrounding natural features. If the recommendations outlined in this letter are followed, it is expected that overall natural habitat for several SCC species, as well as common bird and mammal species will be enhanced, and impacts to the adjacent natural areas will be sufficiently mitigated.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely, Natural Resource Solutions Inc.

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Jeremy Bannon Terrestrial & Wetland Biologist, Certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

References

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI). 2018. Mount Pleasant Scoped EIS.

Map 1: Reforestation Management Plan

olygon Number	Polygon Area (ha)	Polygon Description	Form	Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Requirements	Polygon Number	Polygon Area (ha)	Polygon Description	For
1	0.09	This polygon is present on a southwest facing slope, and	-	Betula papyrifera	White Birch	Sun	10	0.28	This polygon is situated in a minor depression between	_
		is currently meadow habitat for grassland birds and		Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	Sun		0.20	the two highest points in the planting plan. The planting plan reflects this upland community, with some species	
		pollinating insects. The proposed planting list for this	Trees	Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Sun				
	area respects the natural meadow community, with some new tree establishment. It is expected that this will		Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	None			more tolerant of seasonally wet conditions.	Tre	
			Rubus odoratus	Purple Flowering Raspberry						
		encourage continued use of the habitat from birds such	Shrubs	Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac	None		1		
		as Grasshopper Sparrow. Milkweed has been added to the seed mix for this polygon in order to mitigate any loss	Seed Mix	Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado		Hand cast				
		of habitat for Monarch.		Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	Hand cast				01
2	0.21	This lowland depression will be provided with some shade from the southern forest community, and provides wetter habitat than most polygons. Species proposed are complimentary with the adjacent lowland Sugar Maple forest, and are intended to guide this polygon to transition into the adjacent community.	Trees Shrubs	Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum	Sugar Maple	Deer protection, shade				Shr
				Acer X freemanii	Freeman's Maple	Moist soil Sun				See
				Betula papyrifera Betula alleghaniensis	White Birch Yellow Birch	Moist soil	11	0.39	This buffer polygon is designed to take advantage of the increased sun, and also acts as a thick natural barrier to discourage encroachment and unintended use from landowners. Thick shrub species, smaller tree species and sun-tolerant tree species are proposed for this buffer polygon.	
				Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Sun				10
				Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	Sun or partial shade				
				Thuja occidentalis	Eastern White Cedar	None				
				Cornus foemina ssp. racemosa	Red Panicled Dogwood	Moist soil				r Shr
				Sambucus racemosa ssp. pubens	Red-berried Elderberry	None				Crirdi
3	0.04	Cimilante Debuser O this area in situated within 1	Seed Mix	Woodland Seed Mix (8275)	Red Maple	Hand cast				
3	0.24	Similar to Polygon 2, this area is situated within a lower depression area, but will benefit from increased shade		Acer rubrum Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum	Sugar Maple	Shade, moist soil Deer protection, shade				See
		from morning sun. A slight preference toward shade-		Acer X freemanii	Freeman's Maple	Moist soil	12	0.15	This polygon reflects a more upland deciduous to mixed	
		tolerant species has been shown for this polygon.	Trees	Betula papyrifera	White Birch	Sun	12		forest community, providing a suitable transition between	
		,	Trees	Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Sun			the lowland deciduous forest and the topographically higher plantation community. Located on a slightly north- facing slope, this community transitions into the lowland, riparian habitat near Mount Pleasant Road.	
				Thuja occidentalis	Eastern White Cedar	None				
		l		Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	Sun or partial shade				
		[Shrubs	Cornus foemina ssp. racemosa	Red Panicled Dogwood	Moist soil				
				Sambucus racemosa ssp. pubens	Red-berried Elderberry	None				
4	0.30	Located unbill from Dolugen 4 and 0 and located in a	Seed Mix	Woodland Seed Mix (8275)	Sugar Maria	Hand cast				<u> </u>
+	0.30	Located uphill from Polygon 1 and 2, and located in a		Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum Acer X freemanii	Sugar Maple Freeman's Maple	Shade, moist soil Moist soil				Shi
	sunnier location, this plant list provides more upland and shade-intolerant species. This reflects species associated with early succession, which specialize in		Betula papyrifera	White Birch	Sun					
		Trees	Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	Sun	- 10			See	
		providing a starting canopy that is able to eventually nurse shade-tolerant forest species. Milkweed has been		Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Sun	13	0.08	This polygon is provided with some shade from the	
				Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	Sun or partial shade			southeast, and is located near the bottom of the Polygon 12 north-facing slope, transitioning into the riparian	' Tr
5 0.06	added to the seed mix for this polygon in order to mitigate any loss of habitat for Monarch.	Shrubs	Cornus alternifolia	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Upland to moist soil			lowland habitats associated with the protected seasonal swale to the northeast. Wet-tolerant tree species are		
		0111020	Cornus foemina ssp. racemosa	Red Panicled Dogwood	Moist soil					
		Loosted as a riving class from the courthwest this	Seed Mix	Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado		Hand cast			recommended in this area, similar to the off-site swamp	,
	0.00			Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	Hand cast			inclusion to the southwest.	Sh
	0.06	Located on a rising slope from the southwest, this polygon is slightly drier and slightly less protected by shade than the polygons to the west. Milkweed has been added to the seed mix for this polygon in order to mitigate any loss of habitat for Monarch. Higher in topography than the areas to the west, and with less shade than most polygons, this planting list reflects early-successional, sun-tolerant species that are able to establish a primary canopy before the establishment of shade-tolerant forest species.		Acer rubrum Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum	Red Maple Sugar Maple	Shade, moist soil Deer protection, shade				See
				Betula papyrifera	White Birch	Sun	14		This riparian polygon is adjacent to the proposed swale. Proposed species include those that would be present in	1
				Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	Sun or partial shade				1
				Cornus alternifolia	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Upland to moist soil			a swamp thicket, intended to transition into a swamp	Tree
			Seed Mix	Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado	w Mix (8115)	Hand cast			community through the listed tree plantings.	
				Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	Hand cast				
	0.13		Trees	Betula papyrifera	White Birch	Sun			This polygon is located within the ephemeral swale, and	
				Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	Sun				Sh
				Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Sun				
				Prunus serotina	Black Cherry Staghorn Sumac	Sun or partial shade None				See
				Rhus typhina Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado		Hand cast	15			
7	0.06	This polygon is provided with increased shade from the southwest to southeast, and more shade-tolerant species are recommended to be planted within this shadier polygon. These are intended to reflect the nearby			Sugar Maple	Deer protection, shade	-		provides species that can withstand seasonal flooding.	
	0.00		Trees	Acer X freemanii	Freeman's Maple	Moist soil			Woody or tree species in this polygon should be planted	
				Ostrya virginiana	Hop Hornbeam	Shade			at the boundaries of the community, and the topography	/ T
				Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	None			of the swale should be maintained during planting activities.	
8 0.20		lowland deciduous community.		Cornus alternifolia	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Upland to moist soil				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Sambucus racemosa ssp. pubens	,	None					
			Seed Mix	Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado						
	1 30 1		Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum	Sugar Maple	Deer protection, shade				Sł	
		southeast, and reflects a more upland deciduous to mixed forest community, providing a suitable transition between the lowland deciduous forest and the topographically higher plantation community.	Trees	Betula papyrifera	White Birch	Sun				
				Ostrya virginiana Pinus strobus	Hop Hornbeam Eastern White Pine	Shade Sun				
				Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Sun				See
				Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	None	16	0.21	This polygon runs along the northern property boundary, and is currently relatively unvegetated. This habitat	
			Shrubs Seed Mix	Cornus alternifolia	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Upland to moist soil				_
				Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado		Hand cast			feature is intended to provide multi-layered screening	Tr
9 0.40	0.40	This polygon is provided with some shade from the southeast, and reflects a more upland deciduous to mixed forest community, providing a suitable transition between the lowland deciduous forest and the	Trees	Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum	Sugar Maple	Deer protection, shade			habitat for deer to travel off-property.	
				Fagus grandifolia	American Beech	Shade				
				Ostrya virginiana	Hop Hornbeam	Shade				Sh
				Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	Sun				See
		topographically higher plantation community. This		Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	Sun or partial shade			Ý	
		community is present at the highest topographical points in the planting plan.		Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	None	<u> </u>		<u>_</u>	
				Quercus rubra	Red Oak	Shade, moist soil				
			Chanak -	Cornus alternifolia Prunus virginiana sen virginiana	Alternate-leaved Dogwood Choke Cherry	Upland to moist soil None				
				Prunus virginiana ssp. virginiana						
				Rhus typhine	Stadhorn Sumac	None				
			Seed Mix	Rhus typhina Early Succession Dry Prairie Meado	Staghorn Sumac	None Hand cast				

Early Succession Dry Prairie	e Meadow Mix (8115)					
Heart-leaved Aster	Symphyotrichum cordifolium					
Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii					
Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta					
Nodding Wild Rye	Elymus canadensis					
Foxglove Beard-tongue	Penstemon digitalis					
New England Aster	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae					
Switch Grass	Panicum virgatum					
Virginia Wild Rye	Elymus virginicus var. virginicus					
Wild Bergamot	Monarda fistulosa					
Woodland Seed Mix (8275)						
Foxglove Beard-tongue	Penstemon digitalis					
Bebb's Sedge	Carex bebbii					
Nodding/Fringed Sedge	Carex gynandra					
Fowl Meadow Grass	Poa palustris					
Showy Tick Trefoil	Desmodium canadense					
Fowl Mannagrass	Glyceria striata					
Spotted Joe Pye Weed	Eupatorium maculatum ssp. maculatum					
Canada Anemone	Anemone canadensis					
White Avens	Geum canadense					
arly Succession Wet Meadow Mix (8170)						
Awl Sedge	Carex stipata					
Bebb's Sedge	Carex bebbii					
Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii					
Blunt Broom Sedge	Carex scoparia					
Flat-top White Aster	Doellingeria umbellata var. umbellata					
Fox Sedge	Carex vulpinoidea					
Fringed Sedge	Carex crinita					
Great Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica					
New England Aster	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae					
Path Rush	Juncus tenuis					
Showy Tick Trefoil	Desmodium canadense					
Soft Rush	Juncus effusus var. solutus					
Tall Manna Grass	Glyceria grandis					
Virginia Wild Rye	Elymus virginicus var. virginicus					
Wild Bergamot	Monarda fistulosa					

