Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment

November 12, 2020

File: A/102/20

Address: 6350 Steeles Ave E Markham

Applicant: Forest Bay Homes Ltd.
Agent: Southoak Estates Inc.

Hearing Date: Wednesday November 18, 2020

The following comments are provided on behalf of the East Team. The applicant is requesting relief from the following Second Density – Medium Density Residential (RMD2) zone requirements of By-Law 90-81, as amended, to permit:

a) Amending By-law 2015-6 Section 2.3 (7.64.1 g):

a minimum setback to an Open Space Zone of 6.0 m (19.68 ft.), whereas the By-law requires a minimum setback to an Open Space Zone of 7.0 m (23.96 ft.).

The variance requested relates to 34 lots in an approved subdivision.

BACKGROUND

Property Description

The 2.72 ha (6.72 ac) subject property is located on the west side of Kirkham Drive, south of Denison street. The site is currently vacant and there is a concurrent site plan application for the development of 92 common element condominium semi-detached dwellings on the subject site (File SC 19 117372). The subject site is located within a low-rise residential subdivision, which is being constructed in phases. A storm water pond abuts westerly portion of the site and a woodlot that is owned by the City, abuts the southerly portion of the site. Vacant lands are located to the north (across Denison Street) and an existing low-rise subdivision is located to the east (across Kirkham Drive). This site was subject to a rezoning and draft plan of subdivision that have both been approved.

Proposal

The applicant is requesting a variance to permit a reduced setback to an open space zone for 34 lots on the subject property as shown in Appendix A. The subject dwellings back onto an Open Space Zone, which includes a storm water management pond along the west side and, an existing woodlot across the southern portion. The subject dwellings are within a proposed common element condominium development containing 92 semi-detached dwellings.

Official Plan and Zoning

Official Plan 2014 (partially approved on Nov 24/17, and further updated on April 9/18)

The subject property is designated "Residential – Low Rise", which provides for low-rise housing forms including semi-detached dwellings. The proposed development conforms to the 2014 Official Plan.

Zoning By-Law 90-81

The subject property is zoned Second Density-Medium Density Residential (RMD2) under Bylaw 90-81, as amended, which permits the proposed common element condominium development. The proposal does not comply with the zoning by-law with respect to the setback to the Open Space Zone requirement of 7.0 m (23.96 ft.) for the 34 lots.

Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Not Undertaken

The owner has confirmed that a Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) has <u>not</u> been conducted. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the application has accurately identified all the variances to the Zoning By-law required for the proposed development. If the variance request in this application contains errors, or if the need for additional variances is identified during the Building Permit review process, further variance application(s) may be required to address the non-compliance.

COMMENTS

The Planning Act states that four tests must be met in order for a variance to be granted by the Committee of Adjustment:

- a) The variance must be minor in nature;
- b) The variance must be desirable, in the opinion of the Committee of Adjustment, for the appropriate development or use of land, building or structure;
- c) The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law must be maintained; and
- d) The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan must be maintained.

Reduction in Setback to an Open Space Zone

Zoning approval for the proposed 92 common element condominium semi-detached development on the subject property was granted by the Ontario Municipal Board in 2016 (PL131179). The applicable zoning, as amended, includes provisions for a rear yard setback and a setback to the Open Space Zone. Under amending By-law 2015-6, the required rear yard setback for the subject lots is 6.0 m (19.68 ft.) and the setback to the Open Space Zone is 7.0 m (23.96 ft.). The applicant is proposing a minimum setback of 6.0 m (19.68 ft.) to an Open Space Zone, which represents a reduction of 1.0 m (3.28 ft) for the 34 lots.

The requested variance for a reduced setback to an Open Space Zone will apply to the westerly and southerly portion of the site. It is the opinion of Staff that as the westerly portion of the site abuts a storm water management pond, a 10 m buffer is already being proposed from the natural heritage feature. Therefore, a larger buffer is not required. The southerly portion of the site includes a natural woodlot feature. The proximity of the woodlot narrows across the extent of the lots. Natural Heritage and Urban Design Staff have reviewed the proposed reduction and have concerns with the encroachment on this portion of the site (to the woodlot). To protect the woodlot and prevent unwanted encroachment into the woodlot, as a condition to the approval of this variance, the applicant will be required to install a 6.0 m (19.68 ft.) tall wood fence, subject to the review and approval of Urban Design. Staff are of the opinion that as the grade of the woodlot is higher than that of the lots subject to this application, the roots of the trees will not likely be impacted. Staff are of the opinion that the requested variance satisfies the criteria established by Section 45(1) of the Planning Act.

Staff request that approval of this variance be conditional that the variance only applies to the 34 semi-detached dwellings as shown on Appendix A.

Staff note that the onus is on the applicant to confirm through a zoning preliminary review that the requested variances are accurate. If additional non-conformities with the zoning by-law are identified through the building permit review, the applicant will be required to revise their proposal to comply with the by-law or submit future variance applications for consideration.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

No written submissions were received as of November 12, 2020. It is noted that additional information may be received after the writing of the report, and the Secretary-Treasurer will provide information on this at the meeting.

CONCLUSION

Planning Staff have reviewed the application with respect to Section 45(1) of The Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, and are of the opinion that the variance request meets the four tests of the Planning Act. Staff recommend that the Committee consider public input in reaching a decision.

The onus is ultimately on the applicant to demonstrate why they should be granted relief from the requirements of the zoning by-law, and how they satisfy the tests of the Planning Act required for the granting of minor variances.

Please see Appendix "B" for conditions to be attached to any approval of this application.

PREPARED BY:

Aqsa Malik, Planner, Zoning and Special Projects

REVIEWED BY:

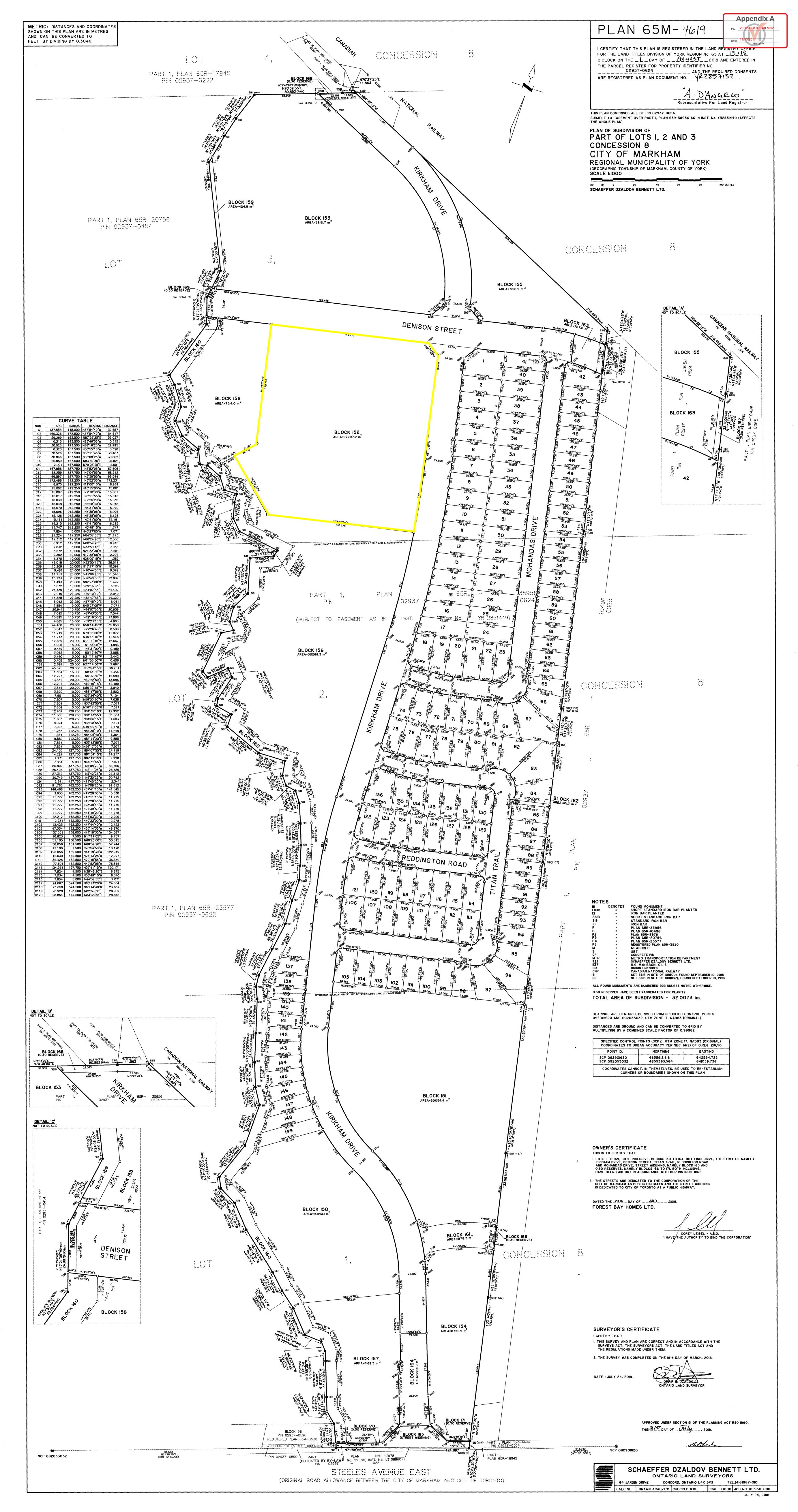
Stacia Muradali, Acting Development Manager, East District
File Path: Amanda\File\ 20 129898 \Documents\District Team Comments Memo

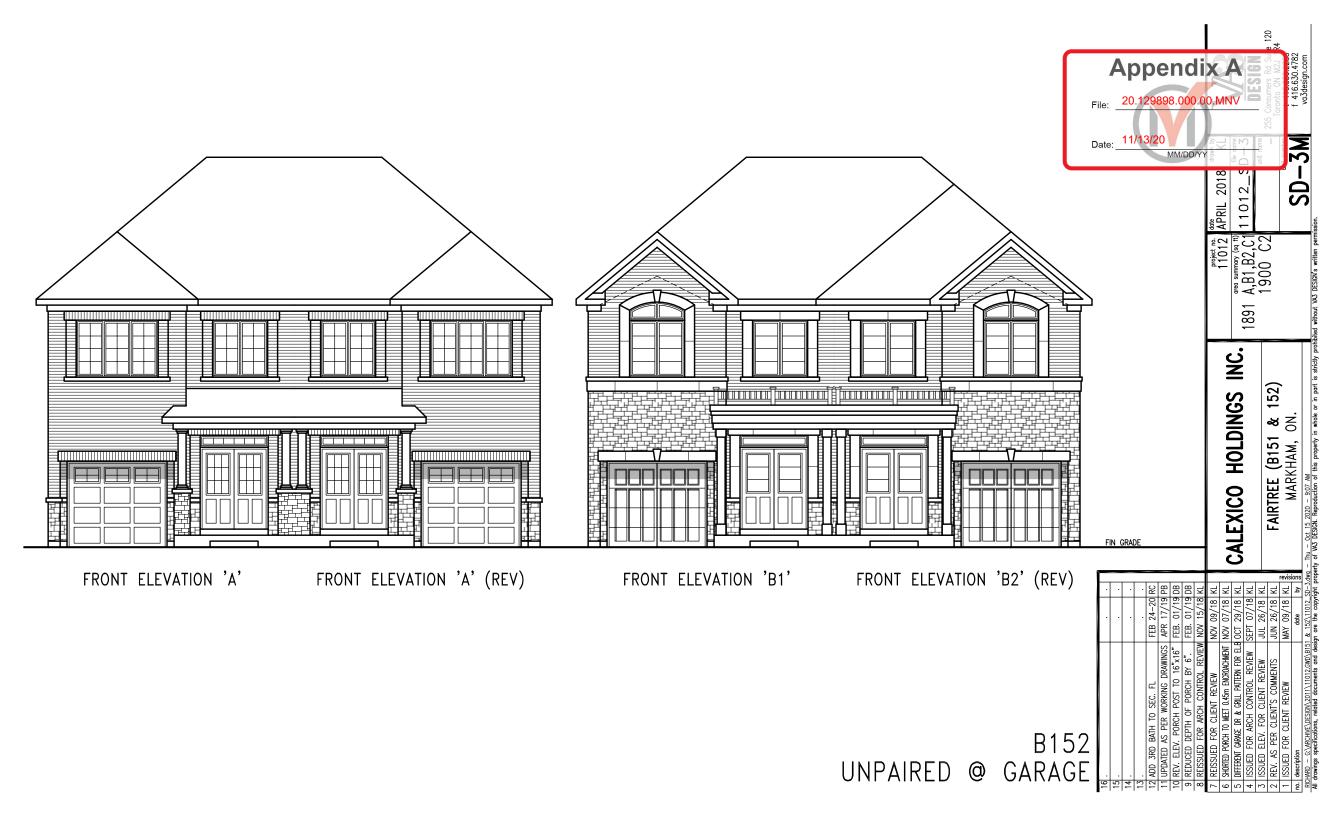
APPENDIX "B" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/102/20

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains;
- 2. That the variances apply only to the 34 lots, in substantial conformity withthe plan(s) attached as 'Appendix A' to this Staff Report and received by the City of Markham, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Director of Planning and Urban Design or designate that this condition has been fulfilled to his or her satisfaction; and
- 3. That the applicant provide details of the screening fence subject to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Urban Design or, their designate.

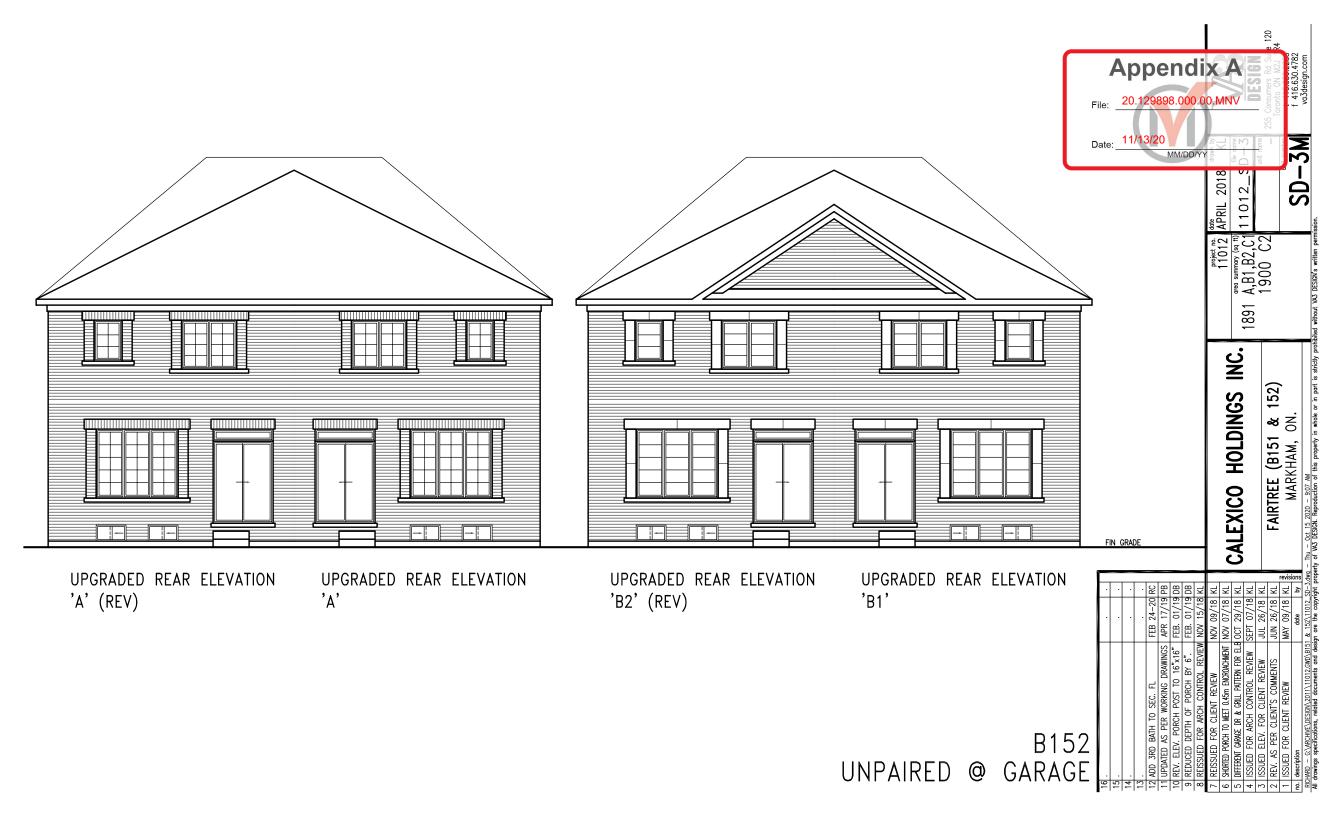
CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

Aqsa Malik, Planner, East District











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