

# Appeal filed over council's storage decision

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Published on Apr 03, 2009

Dundas Star News

The owner of a corner lot at 201 King St. E. in Dundas has reportedly appealed the City of Hamilton's decision to reject zoning and official plan amendment applications to permit a self-serve storage facility on the site.

Economic and planning committee coordinator Alexandra Rawlings said the city received an appeal from Doug Hammond on March 30 –the last possible day to file it. If an appeal was received, the city has 15 days from March 30 to submit an extensive package of material about the application and its denial to the Ontario Municipal Board. From there, it could be quite some time before a public hearing is scheduled.

A copy of the appeal was not available by deadline.

The controversial application was rejected unanimously by councillors on the planning committee and full city council in February after a city planning staff report recommended approval of the applications.

Councillors and the community questioned the completeness and accuracy of the staff report, in light of opposition or concerns expressed by several organizations –including the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Royal Botanical Gardens and Bay Area Restoration Council, none of which was considered by planning staff. The applications were opposed by hundreds of residents.

At a March 18 community council meeting, Dundas councillor Russ Powers was asked about the possibility of a land swap with Mr. Hammond.

Mr. Powers wouldn't get into specifics about the city's efforts in regards to the property within the Cootes Paradise Environmentally Sensitive Area.

"The matter hasn't been dropped," Mr. Powers said.