

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – December 8, 2003

NOISE ATTENUATION FENCING REVIEW

Recommendation

Councillor Bernie DiVona recommends:

The report from the Regional Municipality of York, dated September 19, 2003 with respect to the Rear Lot Fence Highway 7, Pine Valley Drive to Aberdeen be received:
and

The City Of Vaughan staff, in consultation with other municipalities and the Region of York, be directed to bring forth to a Committee of the Whole regarding options available to establish a regional policy for the repair and maintenance of rear lot fences.

The City of Vaughan includes the option and impact of a local area charge for the repair and/or replacement of noise attenuation walls throughout the municipality.

Purpose

To address the Rear Lot Fence Highway 7, Pine Valley Drive to Aberdeen.

Background-Analysis and Options

In May 2002 residents of Torii Street, representation from the Municipality of York (insurance company) and residents inspected the noise attenuation wall along Torii Street abutting Highway 7. The wall when inspected from the rear yards of the residents was found to be half the appearance to be sound. However, the wall and columns when inspected from the side of Highway 7 was found to have white salt stains, deterioration of the wall and columns with expected reinforcement bars. The wall was in such a poor condition that 12-15 feet wooden braces were found to be needed to hold up the wall as it was leaning onto the sidewalk on Highway 7. The City of Vaughan Engineering Department immediately inspected the wall and found it to be unsafe and erected fencing. The wall is part of a 1.5 km stretch of wall from Pine Valley Drive wrapping around Highway 7 to Aberdeen immediately east of Pine Valley Drive. Sections of the wall were found to be very sound and other sections were found to have prematurely deteriorated. The wall was all built at the same time, by the same builder with the same conditions. Yet, the wall lacked consistency in appearance and integrity.

In September 2003, the Regional Municipality of York rejected the request by the residents to assume responsibility for the premature deterioration of the wall as it was on private property and also it felt to be "precedent setting."

The Region of York has asked area municipalities to review and report on the options and alternatives.

There are many kms of noise attenuation walls throughout the City of Vaughan and many of them are fast approaching their useful life and will need to be repaired and/or replaced.

The noise attenuation walls are more than noise walls but beautify an area as they are consistently constructed and of the same colour, materials. If we do not proceed with the development of a policy the walls that are now on private property will be replaced with any type of material that may not be in keeping with out urban design plans or consistently applied.

Local area charges have been used in the past for a wide variety of costs identified to a specific area for the benefit of that area. I recommend that this be fully evaluated along with any other options that exist or in practice with other municipalities.

Attachments

1. York Region report
(Contact Clerk's Department for a copy of attachment)

Report prepared by:

Laura Borello-D'Avino, Council Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie DiVona
Councillor, Ward 3