

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, DECEMBER 9TH, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAW 180-92, A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION AND OPERATION OF CEMETERIES OWNED BY THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks and the Legal Department recommends:

That By-law 180-92, a By-law to Provide for the Regulation and Operation of Cemeteries be amended subject to the approval of the Registrar, Cemeteries Act (Revised) in the following manner:

- 1) Section 2, Definitions, Subsection 1, under "Active Cemeteries" adding Cober Mennonite Cemetery, Part of Lot 12, Concession 2, designated as Part 2 on Plan 65R2335;
- 2) Section 6: Monuments and Markets, Subsection 2: Adding the following to said paragraph: "No monument or other structure shall be erected or permitted on a lot until the necessary changes and expenses have been paid in full, and the approval form in Section "10" has been filed with the City of Vaughan unless otherwise expressly permitted by the City of Vaughan;

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval regarding amendments to the City of Vaughan's Cemeteries By-law

Background - Analysis and Options

On June 12, 2000, Council approved the transfer of ownership, trusteeship, care and control of Cober Mennonite Cemetery to the City. This cemetery is described as Part of Lot 12, Concession 2 and is situated on the east side of Dufferin Street, north of Langstaff Road and south of the Toronto Reservoir. It is an active cemetery that, for many years, has been maintained and kept in good condition by the Baker family and in 2000 this cemetery has been under the City of Vaughan's ownership. Staff is advising that this cemetery should be added to the inventory of cemeteries listed in the by-law.

Staff have met several times with the Ahmadiyya Muslim community which resides in Maple in order to discuss matters pertaining to their burials in the City's cemeteries. The Ahmadiyya Muslim community has for the last number of years, buried members of their community in the Maple Cemetery predominately, which approximately totals 200 graves. This community has requested that they be allowed to construct foundations at the head of the grave in order to place head stones on the platform at a later point in time. The City's by-law to provide for the Regulation and Operation of Cemeteries Owned by the City of Vaughan does not permit any individual to erect a monument or other type of structure on the lot until all charges and expenses have been paid in full and that the form in section 10 of the Cemeteries by-law has been filed with the City. Since the Ahmadiyya Muslim community's religion does not allow representatives to prepare for death, they are not able to make pre-arranged burial arrangements, including the advance purchase of a burial plot.

Recommendation Number two would make allowances for such requirements by allowing for the advance construction of foundations etc., where the plot had not fully paid for, in cases where staff had expressly permitted such construction to take place.

Prior to providing such express permission, staff would require the following: that the Ahmadiyya Muslim community provide in writing, a commitment to the City that they will pay for the spaces once a person has died; that staff be allowed to grant the community 20 spaces for foundations to be constructed and that once these lots have been fully paid for that, permission for an additional 20 spaces be granted and so on, until all the available graves/lots have been taken.

Conclusion

Staff is requesting that Council approve the changes to the cemeteries by-law as stated in the report.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner, Community Services