

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 2, 2005

ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE REQUEST TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOODS TO EXTEND THE TREE REPLACEMENT COMPENSATION ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE

Recommendation

The Asian Long-Horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force recommends:

That Vaughan Council request that the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods extend the compensation eligibility deadline for replacement of trees ordered destroyed to control the spread of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle after December 31, 2004.

Economic Impact

There is no financial impact.

Purpose

To request that the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods extend the compensation eligibility deadline for the replacement of trees ordered destroyed in an effort to control the spread of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle, beyond the date December 31, 2004.

Background - Analysis and Options

In May 2004, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada implemented a compensation program to compensate property owners for the replacement of trees that were ordered destroyed to control the spread of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle. Property owners are eligible to apply for compensation for replacement of trees if they have received a notice from the CFIA requiring the removal of a host tree(s) on the property on or before December 31, 2004. Any trees destroyed by CFIA after December 31, 2004, are not eligible for tree replacement compensation.

At the Asian Long-Horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force meeting of April 20, 2005, the CFIA reported that another site containing evidence of the ALHB had been identified in the Rowntree Dairy Road and Hwy 7 area, and that subsequently, approximately 1000 additional trees had been ordered destroyed in March 2005. Since compensation for replacement of trees is only eligible to property owners for those trees destroyed up to December 31, 2004, the trees destroyed in March 2005 are not eligible for replacement compensation. Therefore, the Asian Long-Horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force is recommending that Vaughan Council request that the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods extend the compensation eligibility deadline for the replacement of trees ordered destroyed beyond the date December 31, 2004.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is recommended that Council request that the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods extend the compensation eligibility deadline for the replacement of trees ordered destroyed beyond the date December 31, 2004.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Bernie Di Vona
Co-Chair
Asian Long-Horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force