

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 20, 2005

PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF BY-LAW 263-01, SECTION 3

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that Enforcement staff adopt a pro-active approach to dealing with violations of Section 3 of By-Law 263-01 along the hydro corridor which bisects west Woodbridge between Rainbow Creek (in the vicinity of Brasswinds Court and Albany Drive) and Rutherford Road, exclusive of any portion of the corridor in areas subject to the control of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

Economic Impact

Nil

Purpose

Like a weed, the issue of the height of grass along this corridor is a perennial topic, returning faithfully every spring. To solve the problem, it is appropriate that staff address this matter in a new way, one which will ensure the concerns of neighbouring residents are dealt with in a timely fashion.

Background - Analysis and Option

There are several properties in west Woodbridge over which Ontario Hydro has an easement. Every spring abutting residents complain of uncut grass, and every spring enforcement staff request a prompt response by the landowner. At one time staff dealt with this issue by way of property standards, but the length of the notice period (30 days) and the possibility of appeal rendered that approach of little merit.

However, a section of a by-law passed in 2001, By-law No. 263-01, requires the owner of any vacant lot to maintain grass at less than one foot, and failing that, permits the City to issue an order to comply within seven days from the date of the issuance of the order, and failing that, allows the City to cut the grass to an appropriate height and charge the cost to the property owner.

By directing staff to take a pro-active approach in respect of this site, staff will, every spring, be charged with issuing an order immediately the grass exceeds the one foot limit, doing so without having to wait for a formal complaint from an abutting resident. This should force the offending landowners to take prompter action and preclude the usual host of complaints from the considerable number of residents on both sides of this corridor.

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

Authorizing staff to take a pro-active approach to enforcement of Section 3 of By-Law No. 263-01 will mean perennial concerns of abutting residents can be addressed in advance of their annual complaints in respect of grass height along this hydro corridor.

Attachments:

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella