

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 22, 2007

BLUWOOD – A NEW TREATMENT PRODUCT FOR WOOD

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

That Council receive the following for information only.

Economic Impact

None.

Purpose

To review the short and long term benefits of using BluWood.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its September 11, 2006 meeting Council directed that staff be requested to provide a report on the benefit (both short and long term) of using the BluWood product by the building industry for all future buildings and that this report be brought to a Committee of the Whole Meeting in January 2007.

Staff have met with representatives of Shelburne Wood Processing, distributors of a product known as BluWood. The product was developed by Wood Smart Solutions Inc. based in Boca Raton, Florida.

The process is a two-product treatment called the perfect barrier system wherein an infusion film encapsulates the wood affectively forming a water repellent, vapour permeable barrier followed by a proprietary DOT wood preservative.

While the process and product is significant in the protection of wood in heavy termite areas there appears to be additional benefits that the factory applied product will also prevent mold growth as stated by Charles Morando, the lead person in the development of the product.

Representatives of Shelburne Wood Processing also did a presentation to both the plans review and inspection staff of the Building Standards Department and provided some additional supporting information.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs does not see a need to evaluate the product from a wood performance perspective as the product has no apparent impact on the natural properties of wood and is not unlike applying a stain. The characteristic of smoke development and flame spread rating identified in the Ontario Building Code are not compromised.

As well the product has been recognized as a green spec product for green building.

Although staff do not have the expertise to endorse the proposed termite and mold benefits of the product, staff see no concern with the structural properties or natural wood properties of BluWood as they relate to the use of BluWood in typical wood construction.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is in keeping with Vaughan Vision and Code regulations related to public safety.

Conclusion

Based on the review staff had no concern with the structural properties or natural wood properties as they relate to the use of BluWood in typical wood construction within the parameters of the Ontario Building Code.

Attachments

None.

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Respectfully submitted,

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