



Staff Report

Report Title: Municipal Road Allowance Tree Restitution

Prepared By: John Yungblut, C.E.T., Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date: Mar. 6, 2023

Report Number: PW-2023-06-37

File Number: C11 PW 23

Copy to: E04 TRE 22

Attachments: SVCA Estimate, Sideroad 5 Map, Field Tile Map

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information, Report Number PW-2023-06-37 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works;

AND FURTHER directs Staff to proceed with the planting of one thousand (1,000) trees on the unopened Sideroad 5 road allowance in the fall of 2023;

AND FURTHER that costs be recovered from the owner of the property at Con. 1 S Pt Lots 8-10, Huron Township, Roll #4107-160-001-00400.

Background:

At the March 3, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, Township staff brought forward a report with the following resolution:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information, Report Number PW-2023-03-15, prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works AND directs staff to proceed with the planting of one thousand (1,000) trees on the unopened Sideroad 5 road allowance AND FURTHER recover the costs from the owner of Con. 1 S Pt Lots 8-10, Huron Township.

After hearing concerns from the landowner regarding the impact that planting trees would have to the field tiles that were recently installed on the property, Council passed the following resolution:

THAT the motion be deferred until Staff are provided with the tile drain map and bring back a report.

The landowner's contractor has sent a hand drawn tile map to Township staff, which is attached to this report. The map is not drawn to scale, and there is no indication of where the trees are located in proximity to the tiles along the west side of the property. Based on the location of the fence line shown on the drawing, it appears that there is at least one run of tiles on the road allowance.

Township staff have inspected the site in April and it appears that winter wheat has been planted on the road allowance. By planting trees this spring or early summer, the landowner will not have the opportunity to harvest the crop on Township property.

Discussion:

We have received a quote from the SVCA for planting 1,000 seedlings at a total cost of \$4,079.30, however, the Township received funding through the Forests Ontario 50 Million Tree Program, so the net cost will be \$2,329.30 if the work is completed this spring. If the trees are planted in the fall, the grant funding will not be available.

Township staff have communicated this information to the landowner, but we have not received a response at this time.

With the warmer dry weather upon us, Township staff would prefer to delay planting the trees until fall to provide them with a better opportunity to get established. This will also allow the landowner to harvest the crop, which will help to offset the additional cost of the project and remove the field tiles from the road allowance if he chooses to do so.

Financial Impacts:

Tree planting and field tile removal costs within in the unopened road allowance will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment.

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer