

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, December 4, 2009				Report Date	Wednesday, December 2, 2009			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Nuisance Beaver Management 04/12/09/207									

Subject: Consideration for options for managing nuisance beaver to avoid damage to municipal roads.

Recommendation: That Council give consideration to increasing the bounty placed on beaver pelts paid by the municipality to registered trappers to manage the population surrounding municipal roads and culverts. That separate agreements be made between the municipality and the licensed trapper whose zone lies along the roads where our trouble spots exist.

WHEREAS there is a history of annual road damage within the municipality caused by nuisance beaver along specific sections of Mackey Creek Road, Kenny Road and Adelard Road;

AND WHEREAS many methods of reducing or eliminating the damage caused on our culverts and roads have been used ineffectively in the past;

AND WHEREAS the only legal method of removal of the animals from ponds alongside our municipal roads is through a written agreement with a licensed trapper;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the licensed trapper(s) whose zone lies along Mackey Creek, Kenny and Adelard Roads.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the bounty on these beaver be placed at \$_____ per pelt for the 2010 budget year.

Background/Executive Summary: In various locations within the municipality the beaver population continues to cause significant damage by blocking culverts and washing roads out. There are various methods that may be used to manage the nuisance beaver population however; few of these methods are available to us as we do not own the land surrounding these culverts save and except for the road allowance.

Since we only own the road allowance we can not destroy the dams or use any of the other techniques available to deter beaver populations in a pond as we would have to trespass on private land. Our only option is to eliminate the beaver. The only option to do that is to enter into an agreement with a licensed trapper to remove the beaver. As the best location to set traps might not be on the road allowance, and as setting traps so close to a public road might result in accident or theft we would have to enter into an agreement with the trapper who is licensed in each zone.

In the past other methods were used to eliminate this problem however; they are no longer available to us. Currently we are facing challenges with the pond on Adelard Road and have an unwritten agreement with Hector Morin to trap these beaver as this area is within his trapping zone. We are currently paying \$35 per pelt as was decided by this Council to be adequate compensation back in May of 2006.

Upon completing research into this issue it has been determined that an association called the Renfrew County Nuisance Fur Bearing Animal Committee will provide a similar service to private property owners for a fee of \$75 per animal plus mileage. Trappers in other areas are paid as much as \$90 per animal.

Over the past 3 years, an average of 5 beaver has been harvested each year with an average of \$175 spent on this problem. As we have no other options, we need to budget in 2010 for this service.

The alternative is for the beaver population to increase, for the culverts to get clogged and have our Road Superintendent work weekly, if not daily to keep these culverts clear. In the past the damage was so severe that we had to hire a contractor to come in with heavy equipment to remove debris from the culvert. Steel grates have been placed at the mouth of the culverts but do not completely alleviate the problem causing water build up and damage to our municipal roads.

Resources/Others Consulted: Ruth Morin, Treasurer; Ministry of Natural Resources webpage; Ontario Fur Manager's Federation; Killaloe/Haggarty/Richards minutes of meetings; Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy;

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

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