



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: April 12, 2013

SUBJECT: German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat – Status Update
PREPARED BY: Robert Penner, ext. 4550
Prathapan Kumar, ext. 2989

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report entitled “German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat – Status Update” be received;
- 2) AND THAT Council Endorse the Terms of Reference for the German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Liaison Committee – Attachment “A”
- 3) AND THAT Council appoint two (2) members of Council and three (3) residents to the Liaison Committee
- 4) AND THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the management of the former Sabiston Landfill site / German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat and to respond to Council’s Nov. 20, 2012 resolutions related to this area.

BACKGROUND:

Site Location and Description

The former Sabiston Landfill site / German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat is located south of John St., west of Don Mills Road and north of the Leslie Street extension at Steeles Avenue. The site includes a closed abandoned landfill area including a gas collection system and a network of gas probes to monitor the gas levels at the boundary of the property in accordance with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Certificate of Approval.

Council Motion dated Nov. 20, 2012

On Nov. 20, 2012 Council passed a motion relating to the former Sabiston Landfill site / German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat. The recommendations and discussions are included in the Options/Discussion section of this report.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

The Nov. 20, 2012 Council Resolutions are listed and discussed below:

- (1) *That staff continue to monitor the gas probes at the boundary between the landfill Site and residential properties at a frequency every two months as per the approved Ministry of Environment (MOE) Operating and Procedures and Maintenance Manual for the Site;*

Staff will continue to manage the Site in accordance with the requirements proscribed by the MOE until the methane gas is fully eliminated. During 2012, there was only one incident of a methane reading exceeding the MOE standard of 2.5% by volume (50% of the lower explosive limit) at a gas probe bordering the property lines where there are residential homes. A follow up inspection a week later indicated the methane level at this probe had been reduced to zero and the high reading was not repeated in subsequent bi-monthly readings. On Feb. 28, 2013 ice formed inside the gas extraction blower and seized the motor. The blower and motor were removed, repaired and re-installed on Mar. 19, 2013. During this period the gas probes were monitored two times a week. Readings above the 2.5% trigger value were observed but after the system was repaired and functioning properly the readings were 0% or 0.1%.

- (2) *That staff prepare appropriate signage to be installed within the Site identifying it as the "German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat" to assist in the education and management of public use of these lands as outlined in the report;*

Corporate Communications is developing signage to be placed at the entrances to the site. The signs will describe the area and the special environmental features and wildlife that are located within the meadow and also identify areas of caution and concern.

Corporate Communications is also preparing an educational piece describing the site, existing conditions, environmental and wildlife issues as well as the City's management of the site to be distributed to nearby residents.

- (3) *That staff be directed to report back on the potential to establish a Community Liaison Committee relative to the former Sabiston Landfill site:*

While not formally constituted, Staff and the local Ward Councillor tentatively formed a German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Community Liaison Committee. The initial meeting was held on Apr. 10, 2013. Asset Management, Parks Operations, Corporate Communications and Urban Design staff, as well as 3 local residents, form the Committee. Terms of Reference for the Liaison Committee are included in Attachment "A".

Indoor Air Quality Monitoring

In response to the MOE direction, indoor methane monitors have been installed inside four (4) residential homes abutting the property. To date, there has not been any detection of methane at any of these monitors including the period in February and March 2013 when the blower system was not working.

Proposed 2013 Work Plan

The following activities will be undertaken at the former Sabiston Landfill site / German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat to manage the gas collection system and to enhance the environmental monitoring system:

1. Re-engineering of the drainage system around the blower house building and the gas collection piping system
2. Re-engineering of the blower / suction motor and exhaust piping to eliminate moisture condensation and to reduce the ambient noise generated at the blower house

3. Addition of ground water sampling wells to better define the migration of the leachate plume originating in the landfill
4. Rehabilitation of the gas collection piping system, degraded by settlement, to improve its suction capabilities
5. A study of the settlement along the property boundary and recommendations of settlement mitigation measures
6. Installation of a back-up generator at the blower house to be made available during periods of electric power outages

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Funds for all of the proposed works are available from Capital Accounts Settlers Park Landfill Management: 750-101-5399-7028 and Former Sabiston Landfill – Equipment Repairs: 0586150-12314-005.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable

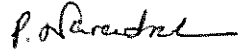
ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

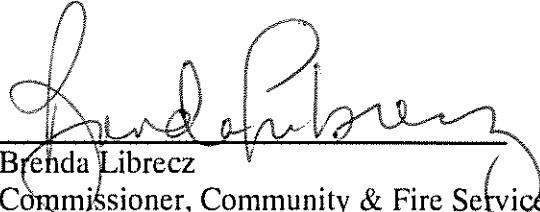
Not Applicable

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

The Finance Department has been consulted and provided input to the report.

RECOMMENDED

BY: 
Gary Adamkowski, P. Eng.
Director, Asset Management
ACTING DIRECTOR

BY: 
Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment "A" – Draft Terms of Reference for the German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Liaison Committee