



TORONTO STAFF REPORT

August 11, 2006

To: Chair and Members
Scarborough Community Council

From: Bill Blakes
Scarborough District Manager
Municipal Licensing and Standards

Subject: Natural Garden Exemption Request - Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 489
23 Doerr Road
Ward 38 – Scarborough Centre

Purpose:

To provide information on the above-noted request for a natural garden exemption for 23 Doerr Road, received in response to a notice served requiring that long grass and weeds be cut.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that City Council grant an exemption under Municipal Code, Chapter 489 Section 489-3E, as per the Department of Natural Environment & Horticulture attached approval and to cancel the served *NOTICE* and to allow the yard to remain as is at 23 Doerr Road.

Background:

Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 489 regulates “long grass and weeds”, requiring it to be cut upon receipt of a served notice. This regulation also provides for an exemption, which may be requested on receipt of such a notice, on the basis that the growth is exempt as a natural garden. This exemption is required under the regulation to be reported on for decision by Community Council. Background information is set out in this report to assist.

Comments:

On June 26, 2006, a Notice was served in reference to the property known as 23 Doerr Road in Ward 38, to require that the grass and weeds be cut, in accordance with Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 489. A letter dated June 29, 2006, was received from the owner of the subject property requesting an exemption from the grass and weeds cutting requirement on the basis that the property contains a natural garden

On August 11, 2006, Economic Development, Culture & Tourism reported that in their opinion the yard of the property does qualify as a Natural Garden.

Conclusions:

This report is submitted for information to Community Council in deciding whether or not to exempt the subject lands as a natural garden.

Contact:

Glenn Shimoda
Municipal Licensing and Standards
Telephone: (416) 396-7371
Fax: (416) 396-4266
E-mail: gshimod@toronto.ca



Bill Blakes
Scarborough District Manager
Municipal Licensing and Standards

List of Attachments:

1. Correspondence dated June 29, 2006
2. Copy of letter dated August 11, 2006, Natural Environment & Horticulture, EDCT

June 29, 2006

Executive Director
Municipal Licensing + Standards
c/o Mr. James Stocum
Scarborough Civic Centre
150 Borough Drive, 3rd Floor
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7

Folder #: 06 150518 LGW 00 IV

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: 23 Doerr Rd
Legal Description PL 5681 L775
Roll Number 19010511 4001 1000000
City of Toronto

This letter is to formally request the above named property to be considered a natural garden and therefore exempt from Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 489 Section 2(A) - the grass and/or weeds are in excess of 20 centimetres (8 inches in height).

It would be greatly appreciated if a Municipal Standards Officer who is knowledgeable in naturalized gardens visit our property and inspect it so that we can conform to the Naturalized Yard standards.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

PIO →

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gordon Skinner". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more decorative.

Gordon Skinner

Owner - 23 Dorr Rd

Glenn Shimoda - Fwd: Natural Gardens 23 Doerr Rd. & 26 Shawford Cr.

From: Patricia Landry
To: Shimoda, Glenn
Date: 08/11/2006 11:19 AM
Subject: Fwd: Natural Gardens 23 Doerr Rd. & 26 Shawford Cr.

Glenn,
Is this sufficient or would you like a formal report?
Patricia

>>> Patricia Landry 7/21/2006 3:54 PM >>>
Hello James,

I inspected the above-mentioned properties this afternoon and found both of them to be within the provisions of a natural garden. I met with the homeowner on Shawford, but the other homeowner was not there. I have left my card to arrange a site meeting with the homeowner on Doerr. The garden on Doerr had some weeds, but very minimal. I will speak to the homeowner directly when we meet to address these weeds.

Have a good weekend,

Patricia