

Subject: 2022 Spongy Moth Program Summary Report

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2022-0184 – 2022 Spongy Moth Program Summary Report, for information.

Background:

In 2020 Council approved Policy S802-03 to address the periodic infestation of the *Lymantria dispar dispar* Moth (Spongy Moth) experienced in the Town of Pelham.

This report serves to fulfill the requirements of the Policy S802-03 to inform Council on the effectiveness of the treatment program and present a post spray assessment and defoliation surveys of the treated areas.

The detailed assessment of the 2022 treatment program, prepared by Lallemand Inc./BioForest (BioForest), has been included as an attachment to this report as Appendix A.

Analysis:

In 2022 the Town of Pelham treated a total of 109 hectares in the areas south of Fenwick, east of Fonhill, and areas in north Pelham, with two applications of Foray 48B (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* [BtK]) and applied at a rate of 4.0L/ha. The first application took place on May 24, 2022 and the second on June 2, 2022. Zimmer Air Services Inc. was the aerial applicator.

Assessment of the 2022 aerial spray program indicates that the program was effective by significantly reducing the forecasted defoliation and maintaining a healthy tree canopy. No branches within the spray areas showed greater than 25% defoliation and the majority had less than 5%.

While the management program effectively met the objectives of Policy S802-03 within the spray areas, many properties outside of those areas may have experienced some defoliation of their trees. Staff continued to receive reports from citizens regarding Spongy Moth infestations however it must be noted that the number of complaints received is well below the number received in the preceding 5 years of infestation.

Staff recommend that the Spongy Moth Management Program continue as per Policy S802-03. Continuation would mean that egg mass surveys will be completed in January of 2023 to determine the level of infestation expected and make recommendations for management if required.

Financial Considerations:

To date, the cost of the Spongy Moth Management program in 2022 is \$141,420 (excluding applicable taxes). This included \$103,220 for aerial spray services, \$32,000 for program consulting and execution, and \$6000 for mail-outs and print media communication. The approved budget 2022 budget was \$150,000.

Alternatives Reviewed:

Policy S802-03 was approved for the management of the Spongy Moth in 2020. The policy was based on the principals of Integrated Pest Management and provides a process to address the periodic infestations of the Spongy Moth, including communication to Council regarding the efficacy of the program.

As staff is following the policy, no further alternatives were considered in the preparation of this report.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Strong Organization

The tree canopy within the municipal boundary is vital to increasing the quality of life within the Town of Pelham.

Consultation:

Lallemand Inc. / BioForest provided; 2022 Spongy Moth Aerial Spray Program Summary Report.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Appendix A – 2022 Spongy Moth Aerial Spray Program Summary Report
Public Works Report #2022-0028
Public Works Report #2022-0057
Policy S802-03

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