

Preserve farmland for farming indefinitely

Communication : C 7
Committee of the Whole (1)
December 6, 2022
Agenda Item # 3

Crop	Tons/Acre	Value/Acre	Min. Commercial Farm (3000 Acres)*	
			Total Production Tons	Total Revenue
Soya Bean	1.25	\$ 1,000.00	3750	\$ 3,000,000.00
Corn	4.5	\$ 1,500.00	13500	\$ 4,500,000.00
Hay - 1st cut	10	\$ 3,000.00	30000	\$ 9,000,000.00
Hay - 2nd cut	10	\$ 3,000.00	30000	\$ 9,000,000.00
Wheat	2.25	\$ 1,000.00	6750	\$ 3,000,000.00

Soil's carbon storage capability can help fight climate change. (Source 4 per 1000 Initiative)

“Areas of municipal ecological significance”

*Right Sizing the Farm: How scale and currency affect farm profitability and farmland value.

A Bonnefield Research Report. 2018, Bonnefield Financial Inc.

Staff report – illegal truck yards

- 3 months wasted
 - Information without recommended actions
 - How many months more to wait?
- Problems are fixed by problem owners
 - Silos of civic responsibility not coordinated to deliver timely results
 - Current enforcement processes do not produce results
 - No educational campaign (see Town of Caledon website example)
 - Failure to recognise issues are regional and cross-boundary
 - Who owns this problem – staff or Elected Officials?

Issues

- Illegal land use in Vaughan is historic, chronic and increasing weekly
 - Is City Hall political culture the problem?
 - Why is being 'business friendly' putting communities at risk?
 - Serious impact and harm deserve serious punishment not accommodation.
- Impacts:
 - Public safety: Roads unsafe for commuters, cyclists, joggers, pedestrians
 - Permanent loss of farmland for food production
 - Noise, dust, light pollution, vehicle maintenance waste, ground water contamination
 - Damages roads & repair costs
 - Unchecked illegal activities encourage other law breakers
 - Illegal businesses are unfair competition to complying businesses
 - Ineffective high enforcement costs

Governance actions – 1

- Within 7 days - Mayor on behalf of Council schedule media briefing on following actions
 - letters to CEOs of CPR, Amazon, CTC, COSTCO, WALMART, etc., requesting they use only legal truck yard & container storage operators
 - Highlight business & compliance risks using illegal operators
 - Does not meet addressees corporate ESG or business ethics objectives
 - see draft letter & Ethics/Governance commitments
 - Culpability -third party liability coverage may be null & void
 - Provide a list of legal operators & addresses in Vaughan
- Schedule impacted residents' meeting with Mayor, Deputy City Mgr. & senior staff
 - Let's work together
 - Issues, answers, accountability & action
- Establish dedicated rural enforcement team including prosecutor
- Bring dump truck licenses under a regime like tow truck licenses

Governance actions – 2

- Sort out York Courts and prosecutorial issues
 - Regional Councillors meet with AG, Chief Justice, Regional Solicitor
- Illegal truck and container yards a “strict liability offence”
- Change penalty model for infractions
 - fines increase logarithmically up to incarceration
- Get YRPSB engaged
- Get ALECTRA involved – no power to illegal businesses
- Engage other levels of government
 - Treat public safety issues as criminal offences
 - Proceeds of crimes investigations of beneficial owners of illegal business operations
- What is Vaughan going to do?
Facta non verba – actions not words!