



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor Jones and Members of the Board

FROM: Karen Proctor, Town Administrator

DATE: February 4, 2021

RE: Approval of Addition to the Terracare Contract for Treatment of and Removal of Trees on Ring Road

**DISCUSSION:**

Terracare was asked to provide the Town with a plan to address the weeds in the Open Space, in addition to suggestions for the trees on Ring Road.

Attached is a letter from Mr. Winfield that addresses the recommendations of their Arborist and a summary of his suggestions. In the Open Space they suggest we do the two (2) broadleaf sprayings and spot spraying that are currently in the contract. Additional spot spraying can be done if needed at an additional \$600 per application.

Mr. Winfield explained that when dealing with Canadian Thistle, you can cut and bag the growth after spraying and the plant has "wilted". After the growth and spray, Terracare will remove the dead weeds to minimize the chance of seeds and re-growth. Just given the location, Terracare must exercise extreme caution so as not to allow any herbicide to enter the drainageway. State Law does not allow any other use of broad chemical spraying of the weeds due to the downstream flow in the area. He stated that this will be a couple of years of effort, but hopefully after the first treatment, they can get the nuisance part of the weed out, and then follow up with spot spray to kill the "new" volunteers between treatments. From experience, they know they will not eliminate this noxious weed in the first year. The second treatment is to knockdown the possible root that survived the summer months.

The following is recommended for the trees on Ring Road:

- Pull back rocks and soil on pine and spruce trees to remove girdling twine \$5,400
- Remove 3 dead spruce \$720

This would be an additional cost of \$6,120. Also, the winter watering of the trees should be done and that is a cost of \$1,210 per occurrence.

Staff has contacted Arapahoe County to see if we can use the Open Space funds for this expense. If we cannot use these funds, a supplemental appropriation from the General Fund would need to be done.

**ATTACHMENT:**

**Exhibit A:** Letter from Bill Winfield, Terracare Associates

29 January 2021

I asked an arborist to look at the trees on the "Ring Road" as we were seeing a decline in the appearance and health of many of the trees there. Below are some of the excerpts and recommendations he sent:

"The Town of Foxfield's row of pine and spruce, screening homeowners from Lewiston Way and the commercial properties to the north, are declining from freeze damage, deicing salts and drought. Environmental damage is difficult to control if conditions do not improve."

"The first management step is to remove dead trees. The second is to pull back the soil around the trunks to expose the root collar and cut girdling twine and rocks. The third is to do an audit of the irrigation system and set that system to deliver 15 gallons of water per week, May-September. Finally, all trees should be deep root watered once a month while the irrigation is off, October-April."

**Recommendations:**

- Pull back rocks and soil on approximately 120 pine and spruce to remove gridling twine \$5,400
- Remove 3 dead spruce \$720
- Grind Stumps \$360
- Grind existing stumps (7) \$840

**Plant Health Care:**

- Ips beetle spray to all pines and spruce **In-contract**
- Aphid and mite spray all pines and spruce **In-contract**
- Deep root fee all pines and spruce with methyl urea, chelated iron and mycorrhizae  
**In-contract** (These will help replace the nutrients that are lacking in the soil)
- Deep root watering all trees 7 times Oct-April  
**In-contract pricing with prior authorization from Town**

**OPEN SPACE:**

- It is being recommended to do the two Broadleaf sprays that are in contract. If additional spot spraying is needed, they can do this for \$600/ application.
- It is important to note that since this abuts a drainage system, that beyond the scheduled broadcast spraying could spot spraying is the only chemical means to control this area due to "downstream" flow concerns by State Law.

To wrap this all together, it appears that when the trees were planted, the installation did not have the baskets cut-off and the trees were just placed in the hole and buried without any soil amendments. The twine is choking off the trees and they will eventually die. Terracare recommends the arborist removes the soil and cut the existing twine from the trees and do the removal only of the three dead spruce. We do not believe the stump grinding is necessary in this area. The additional watering can be performed by our company and the irrigation audit and system adjustment we can perform as well. The open space can be monitored and if added spot spraying is needed, we can decide on that mutually.