



SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Report – 800 Laurentian Drive – (Site plan 535-014-20)

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-13-21

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: Site Plan (535-014/20)

Date to Committee: May 6, 2021

Date to Council: May 18, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove one (1) City-owned tree as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-13-21; and

Instruct the applicant, Mr. Allen Schiedel on behalf of ABS Machining, 2596879 Ontario Inc. to provide compensation for the City-owned tree removal by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$3,500.00. The funds will provide for new tree plantings elsewhere in the City which includes care and maintenance for the first two (2) years; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the removal and payment of the associated development related permit fee of \$680.00 plus HST; and

Direct that all associated costs with respect to the removal of the trees (including stump removal) will be the responsibility of the applicant. The contractor hired to remove the trees will require approval by the Manager of Urban Forestry or designate.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

The subject property is a vacant lot located along Laurentian Drive (See Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Subject Property, 800 Laurentian Drive

Forestry staff inspected the property on April 19, 2021. An application for Site Plan approval (File No. 535-014/20) has been submitted to create an 80,000sq ft. industrial building on the vacant lot for a new manufacturing plant. As part of their Site Plan approval, a Tree Permit must be obtained in order to facilitate the removal of a City-owned tree so as to proceed with the approval process and complete servicing for the building.

In accordance with the City of Burlington's Public Tree By-law 68-2013, Section 1.19 states, "*The City Arborist shall not issue a Tree Permit for Trees located on Public Property immediately abutting Private Property for which a development application has been submitted, until such time as the development application has been approved and Council has also approved the removal of those trees*".

Given this, a request was made for Forestry to prepare a report to Council for the removal request.

Strategy/process

One (1) City-owned tree is proposed to be removed at the recommendation of the applicant due to its conflict with the proposed servicing that is in direct alignment with the subject tree. The subject tree that is proposed for removal is located along Laurentian Drive and is self-seeded (i.e., was not planted by the City). The tree proposed for removal is as follows:

1. Tree No. 1: Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*): DBH 65cm (Co-dominant stem 40, 25cm)

The tree is in fair condition, and is believed to be of natural origin. Given the existing condition of the tree combined with its' origin, Forestry has no objection to its removal under the provision that cash-in-lieu fees are provided to the City as compensation for canopy loss.

Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form completed by City staff, Appendix B – Site Photographs for additional details.

Options Considered

Review of other options for servicing was made, but due to other utility conflicts the proposed connection remains the best possible option.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$3,500.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the tree removal. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City. In addition to the cash-in-lieu fees, a permit fee of \$680.00 plus HST will be required. The total cost of tree and stump removals will be borne entirely by the applicant.

Total Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Source of Funding

Not applicable.

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable.

Climate Implications

The removal of trees is always a concern as they provide the most cost-effective measure of carbon sequestration, in addition to providing a host of other ecological benefits associated with climate change. It is critical that in cases where trees must be removed, that they are sufficiently compensated for in the interest of replacing the canopy loss long-term.

Engagement Matters:

Conclusion:

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removal, and supports the removal as per the recommendations listed above.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Torchia

Supervisor, Forest Protection

(905) 333-6166 ext. 6121

Appendices

- A. Tree Inventory and Compensation Form
- B. Site Photographs

Notifications:

Name : Allen Schiedel

aschiedel@schiedelconst.com

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.