



SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Report – 3093 Princess Blvd
TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.
FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-17-21

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: 820-02

Date to Committee: June 10, 2021

Date to Council: June 22, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove one (1) City-owned tree as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-17-21; and

Instruct the applicant, David Prince to provide compensation for the City-owned tree removal by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$500.00 as detailed in Appendix A to report RPF-17-21. The funds will provide for a new tree planting elsewhere in the City; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the removal and 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
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Background and Discussion:

The subject property is located along Princess Blvd within Ward 4, just west of Rossmore Blvd (See Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Subject Property, 3093 Princess Blvd

A request for Forestry review for the removal of a City-owned tree as part of a consolidated pre-building permit application was made on April 16, 2021. The consolidated pre-building permit application submitted is to facilitate the demolition of the existing dwelling and construct a new single-family dwelling on the subject property. As part of the proposed works, the applicant will be relocating the existing driveway, which will be further set back from the property line. In order to facilitate the proposed project, the removal of a newly planted City-owned tree is required.

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 by the applicant 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 and their contractor. The tree proposed for removal has been recently planted by the City as part of the standard canopy replacement management within the City undertaken by Forestry. The construction of the new single-family dwelling requires a set back from the property line due to zoning requirements. With this setback requirement, the new proposed driveway that will provide access to the new garage is in direct conflict with the City-owned tree. Further to the driveway conflict, Bell recently installed a mobility hub along Princess Blvd and located this hub adjacent to the existing driveway.

The subject tree that is proposed for removal is in good health and is as follows:

1. Tree No. 1: Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*): DBH 4 cm

Due to the required setbacks and recent utility work, there will not be sufficient space that will allow the proposed driveway construction and the required growing space for the Bitternut Hickory to ensure its health and longevity long term. Given the limitations Forestry does not object to the request to remove the City-owned tree in order for the project to proceed provided that cash-in-lieu of replacement funds are provided to the City to compensate for its removal and replace the canopy elsewhere. Forestry does note that the removal of this tree to facilitate the new dwelling and driveway may remove available planting space within the City right of way associated with the subject lot in the future.

Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form completed by City staff, Appendix B – Site Photographs for additional details, Appendix C – Summary of Removal Request and Appendix D – Arborist Report.

Options Considered

The options considered include the following:

1. Denial of the request of the removal, which may not allow the project to proceed given the design limitations for the lot and setback requirements.
2. Transplant or relocation of the tree. Forestry does not recommend transplanting newly planted trees, as the success rate for transplanting is low, given the transplant shock that would be experienced twice in such a short time frame of its life cycle (i.e., first at the planting stage from the nursery, and then a second time associated with its relocation to an alternate location).
3. Alternate design option for the driveway. An alternate design for the driveway would ultimately have an impact on the larger mature trees.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$500.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the tree removal, in addition to the permit fee in the amount of \$680.00 + HST. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City. The total cost of tree and stump removals will also 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.

Conclusion:

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removal, and given the limitations and review, has no objection to the removal request 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
- C. Applicants Request to Remove Tree Summary
- D. Arborist Report

Notifications:

Name : David Prince

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Name : David Carrothers

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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.