



SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Report – 5209 Stonehaven Drive
TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.
FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-27-21

Wards Affected: 6

File Numbers: 510-01/17

Date to Committee: December 9, 2021

Date to Council: December 14, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove three (3) public trees in order to proceed with the proposed Plan of Subdivision application File No. 510-01/17 as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-27-21; and

Instruct the applicant, Don Husack on behalf of Dawn Victoria Homes, to provide compensation for the public tree removals by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$6,500.00. 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 removals 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 Stonehaven Dr., which will be developed into a subdivision consisting of 10 detached single-family dwellings and an 8-unit townhouse block (See Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Subject Property, 5209 Stonehaven Dr.

Forestry staff inspected the site on October, 15 2021. An application for Plan of Subdivision (File No. 510-01/17) has been submitted to redevelop the subject property into 10 detached single-family dwellings and an 8-unit townhouse block. As part of a condition to satisfy their Plan of Subdivision, a Tree Permit must be obtained in order to facilitate the removal of public trees in order to proceed with approval and service the lots. 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 these trees*".

Strategy/process

Three (3) public trees are proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed Plan of Subdivision. More specifically, three (3) trees will directly conflict with the proposed road construction and servicing for the proposed development (Tree No. 5, 6 and 11) as described within the Arborist Report submitted as Appendix C. The subject trees that are proposed for removal are located along the boulevard of Stonehaven Dr. The trees proposed for removal are as follows:

1. Tree No. 5: Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia tiacanthos var. inermis*): DBH 28cm
2. Tree No. 6: Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia tiacanthos var. inermis*): DBH 22.5cm
3. Tree No. 11: Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia tiacanthos var. inermis*): DBH 22.5cm

All of the trees proposed for removal are mid-size and considered to be in good condition in both health and structure at the time of assessment. Given the proposed plans and constraints of the subject property for access as it is bound by a rail corridor, public park and regional road (Dundas Street), there were limited locations for access for the subject property. Similarly, there is a number of servicing proposed for the new subdivision. Due to the amount of encroachment and overall scope of work and duration, it was not feasible to retain the trees. As such, Forestry is in support of the removal of the above noted subject trees under the provision that cash-in-lieu fees are provided to the City as compensation for canopy loss. Note, Public Tree No. 10, has since been removed by City staff due to condition. All private tree removals will be dealt with through the *Planning Act* process.

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

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed plans with the applicant. Additional public trees along Stonehaven Drive and more specifically along the frontage of John William Boich Parkette will be preserved during servicing work by implementing directional bore methodology.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$6,500.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the tree removals. 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 department has reviewed the proposed tree removals, and supports the removals 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. Supporting Documents

Notifications:

Name : Don Husack

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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.