



SUBJECT: Public tree removal - 320 Pine Cove Road
TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.
FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-27-22

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: ZC-350/22

Date to Committee: September 15, 2022

Date to Council: September 20, 2022

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove one (1) public tree in order to proceed with the proposed two-storey dwelling as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-27-22; and

Instruct the applicant, Gerardo Castillo on behalf of Keystone Home Designs Inc., to provide compensation for the public tree removal by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$3,500.00; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the public tree removals and pay the associated tree permit fees as outlined in the city's Rates and Fees By-law; and

Direct that all associated costs with respect to the removal of the public trees (including stump removal) will be the responsibility of the applicant and 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 Pine Cove Road within Ward 4, just north of Spruce Ave (See Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Subject Property, 320 Pine Cove Road

A consolidated pre-building permit application has been submitted to construct a two-storey dwelling on an existing lot. Two (2) other public trees will remain along the frontage and are planned to be retained through construction. Additional private trees are expected to be impacted by the proposed build and those elements will be reviewed under the Private Tree By-law as part of the consolidated pre-building application review process.

Council approval to proceed with issuance of a tree permit must be obtained in order to facilitate the removal of a public tree. 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

One (1) public tree is proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed driveway:

Tree No. 6: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*): DBH 46cm

The subject tree that is proposed for removal is in good to fair condition in accordance with the information submitted. Consideration was made for relocating the driveway by the applicant however, due to the increase in driveway size, any re-location would result in an impact to trees. Given the limitations in relocation options along with the hedge form of the tree, and past pruning practices by hydro, Forestry is in support of the removal under the provision that cash-in-lieu of replacement is provided to the City as compensation for canopy loss.

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

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed plans with the applicant.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$3,500.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the public tree removal. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City. In addition to the cash-in-lieu fee, a tree permit fee will be required as prescribed in the City's Rates and Fees By-law (as amended). The total cost of tree and stump removal 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. Supporting Documents

Notifications:

Name : Gerardo Castillo

Email : info@keystonehomedesigns.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.