



SUBJECT: Public tree removal - 4385 Mainway Blvd

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-24-22

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: Site Plan 535-010-21

Date to Committee: September 15, 2022

Date to Council: September 20, 2022

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove three (3) public trees to proceed with the proposed site plan application file no. 535-010-21 as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-24-22; and

Instruct the applicant, Jason Menkes on behalf of Menkes Barrett Burlington II Inc., to provide compensation for the public tree removals by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$3,500.00; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the public trees 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 a vacant lot located at the northeast corner of Mainway and Corporate Drive (See Fig. 1).

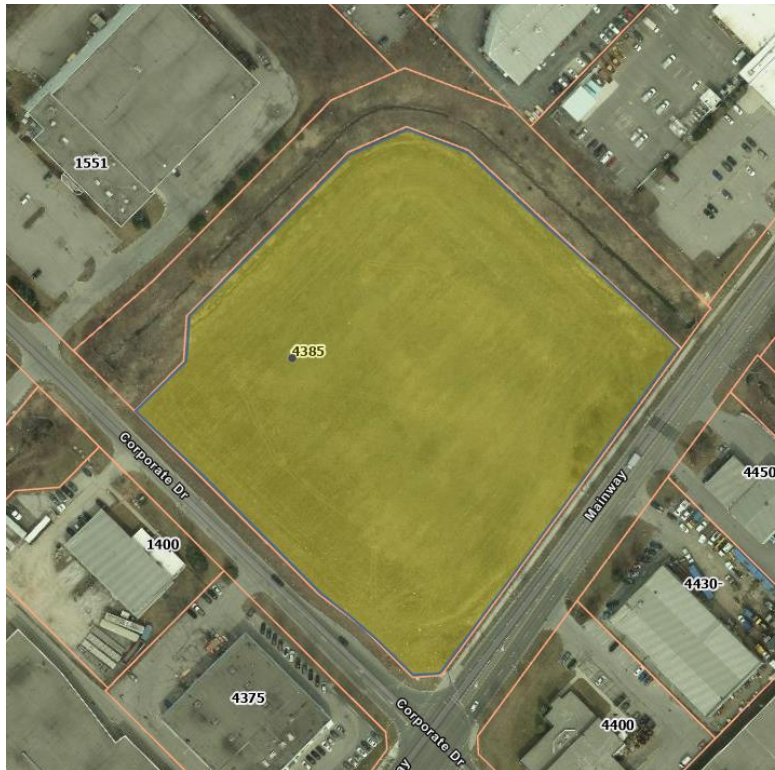


Figure 1: Subject Property, 4385 Mainway Blvd.

An application for Site Plan (File No. 535-010-21) has been submitted to construct a single Multi-Unit Warehouse Building that comprises of three (3) individual units, each containing an Accessory Office. A total of (13) trees that range from 3 – 28 cm DBH are proposed for preservation within the municipal right-of-way adjacent to the property along Mainway Blvd.

As part of a condition to satisfy their Site Plan, council approval to proceed with issuance of a tree permit must be obtained in order to facilitate the removal of public trees. 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 driveway:

- Tree No. 14: Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*); DBH: 11cm; Condition: good.
- Tree No. 15: Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*); DBH: 3 - 7cm; Condition: good.
- Tree No. 16: Ivory Silk Lilac (*Syringa reticula* 'Ivory Silk'); DBH: 19cm; Condition: good.

The (3) subject trees proposed for removal are all in good condition and located within the municipal right-of-way along Mainway Blvd. Consideration was made for relocating the driveway as well as reducing the driveway size to 15m by the applicant. However, the proposed location and size optimizes alignment with the adjacent driveways along the other side of Mainway, and the proposed radius is required for the driveway as it is the only entrance/exit for truck traffic. The proposed driveway location also adheres to the limitations of Conservation Halton's required 7.5m regulatory area. Given the limitations and optimization, along with the size of the trees, 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 removals. 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 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 removals, and supports them 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 : Jason Menkes

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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.