

Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

Report

3rd Meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
March 28, 2018
Committee Room #4

Attendance PRESENT: R. Mannella (Chair); T. Khan, J. Kogelhelde, C. Linton, N. St. Amour, M. Szabo and R. Walker and J. Bunn (Acting Secretary)

ABSENT: C. Haindl and G. Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT: A. Beaton, J. Spence, J. Ramsay and S. Rowland

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Green Legacy Study Update

That the attached presentation from B. Curry, ReForest London, with respect to an update on the Green Legacy Study, BE RECEIVED.

3. Consent

3.1 2nd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That the 2nd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 28, 2018, BE RECEIVED.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Tree Protection By-law – Verbal Update

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee heard a verbal update from J. Spence, Manager, Urban Forestry, with respect to the Tree Protection By-law.

5.2 2018 Work Plan

That the revised attached 2018 Work Plan for the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee BE FORWARDED to the Municipal Council for consideration.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

None.


7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.

Green Legacy Study
Project Update – March 2018

March 29, 2018 Prepared for
Trees and Forests Advisory Committee


by Brianne Curry – Project Lead (ReForest London)



Agenda

- **Project Updates:**
 - Recap of project history
 - Learnings from Wellington County Green Legacy
 - Learnings from other nurseries and models
 - London context
 - Volume of trees & implications for area requirements, locations and infrastructure needs
 - Location options
 - Mandate to include Social and Educational Programming?
- **What's Next?**


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Project History

- Summer 2016: Presentation at TFAC by Rob Johnson (Manager, Green Legacy)
- TFAC: Recommended to City Staff to investigate potential in London for a tree growing program/facility
- Recommendation went to PEC; voted in favour.


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Recap – Project history & purpose

- Winter 2017: City of London committed \$18,800 to support the project
- ReForest London: Applied for Ontario Trillium Foundation SEED Grant
 - Awarded June 2017
 - \$75,000 (Max funding)
 - Collaborative Agreement – RFL, City, UTRCA, TVDSB, LDCSB
- Project duration – Aug 2017 – Aug 2018
- As part of OTF commitment, we intend to share our findings with other communities through workshops

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Purpose:

Multiple goals of partners:

- Tree Planting Strategy / Urban Forest Management Strategy
- Million Tree Challenge
- Improved watershed health / improved forest quality

We know:

- Far more tree planting will be needed
- Cost of acquiring stock in the volume needed is rising
- Partners are identifying difficulties in sourcing desired (native) species in the volume and / or sizes needed, when desired
- ◆ We need a reliable, affordable source of trees, in the species and sizes that partners want.
- ◆ The Green Legacy model offers a unique opportunity to marry tree production and supply, with social and educational programming for community

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Wellington County Green Legacy



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Tree Nursery Locations



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Wellington County Green Legacy

- 6 greenhouses in total (2 North, 4 South)
 - Plus field production area for potted stock
- Cold storage, offices, potting sheds
- Volunteer Program
 - School Program, Co-ops, Groups, corporate, individuals
 - Summer students

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Green Legacy: Majority is Plugs / Seedlings



Variety of ~30-45 native species (depends on yr).

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Trees wintered over, and packaged for spring distribution



Fall / Winter / early Spring is Packaging time!

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Potted stock



Large compound with about potted stock (most 1 to 2 gallon pots, few larger)
~15,000 total on site at each of the two nurseries

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Large Potted / Specimen Trees



Pot – in – pot container grown trees.

- Used for special events eg. Warden's Plantings
- Schoolyard trees
- Minimal – less than 300 trees.
- Pots in ground; drip irrigation

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Green Legacy Operations

- Staff: nursery manager, 2.75 FT nursery workers, 1 community outreach worker, + seasonal staff
- Operating budget approx. \$750,000 / year
- Annually
 - Distribute 160,000 2-3 year seedlings and 15,000 potted
 - **Planting** services ~12,000 trees / yr
 - ~30 Classroom visits
 - Education and volunteer experience of approx.15,000 hours

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Learnings from other nurseries

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Warwick (Credit Valley CA, Caledon, ON)



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Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Warwick Nursery



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CVC Warwick



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CVC Warwick

- 50,000 1-3 gallon pots shipped annually, of which 20,000 are for TRCA (for TRCA, most is produced from purchased seedling, potting in spring, ship in fall)
- Remainder of trees are “sold” to planting programs within CVCA or external buyers
- Useful benchmark for size, approach, costs, etc.
- Nursery area covers about 130,000 sq. ft with driveways (3 acres)
- Production area is around 74,000 sq. ft. (1.7 acres)

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CVCA Warwick - Operations

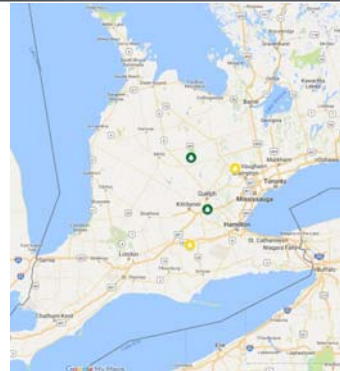
- 2 core staff, plus as needed use of Forestry staff, plus seasonal

Costs reduced:

- Ongoing operating costs reduced since use CVCA staff as needed
- Startup and Overhead costs reduced since share the building with Forestry operations
- Potting machine is key, 3500 pots/day
- No volunteer program

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GRCA Burford



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GRCA Burford - Operations

- Grows for GRCA planting programs, plus sale to other groups & municipal programs
 - Majority Bareroot saplings or whips
- Also ~20,000 potted plants / yr
- Cost competitive or higher than retail / wholesale



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Take – aways from other nurseries

- No cost savings from purchasing from retail / wholesale sector.
- Strategic reasons prioritizing **control** over:
 - Species
 - Size
 - Seed provenance
 - Seasonality

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Implications for London

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Annual volume requested

	2020	2028
C-Seedling plug	1,875	1,875
C-Potted Med	2,981	5,381
C-Potted Large	630	630
C-Caliper (35-70 mm)	30	100
D-Seedling plug	5,625	5,625
D-Potted Med	14,730	26,330
D-Potted Large	853	2,653
D-Caliper (35-70mm)	6,381	6,381
Fruit trees - Potted Large	2,627	7,527
Shrubs - Potted Med	3,436	3,436
Total	39,168	59,938

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Inventory required

Deciduous and coniferous	Age at delivery	Inventory
Plug	2	143,851
Potted medium (tree and shrub)	3	55,060
Potted large	4	18,156
Caliper	7	22,359
Fruit trees	5	7,903
Total		247,329

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Feasibility Study

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- ### Footprint and infrastructure requirements - London
- Ultimately requiring ~10-12 acres for total inventory by 2028
 - ~2 acres for buildings:
 - Programming / offices
 - Utility sheds / potting sheds / storage
 - Storage of soil and bulk materials
 - Parking
 - Shipping area
 - Plus greenhouses as required (~2)
- Implications for location in London: large parcel of land.
- Multiple sites?
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- ### Locations Reviewed
- Greenhouses at TVDSB and LCDSB schools
 - City of London owned
 - Civic Gardens
 - Large areas on outskirts London
 - Adelaide Depot
 - Other Depots (Exeter, etc)
 - Lands zoned industrial but not slated for use for 10-20 years
 - Lands slated for new section of Commissioners but not slated for 10+ years
 - Cavendish
 - UTRCA
 - RFL land
 - Greenhouse Academy
 - Existing nursery for sale
 - Private nurseries
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Single site or multiple sites

- New nursery could be located at several sites
 - Optimize use of existing greenhouses for seed trays and programming
 - School greenhouses
 - Civic Gardens?
 - Others?
 - Some large potential locations are not as ideally located (distance and transit accessibility)
 - May be able to get a low cost lease from the city for a large volume site
 - May be other parcels of land available for production area

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Key assumptions for the feasibility study

- New entity is set-up:
 - Professional nursery staff and programming specialists
 - Seed zone specific stock, certified seed collectors
 - Non-profit, with multiple partners on its Board, with partners receiving trees at no cost in return for their contribution
 - Start-up by ~2020 (first trees delivered in 2022) and ramp up to full volume to be determined; plan for 15+ year operation (as long as meet mandate)
 - High quality trees grown to partners' volumes and specs
 - 100% container
 - Meet all provincial standards and regulations

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Eg. Saunders Secondary School Greenhouse

- ~6 TVDSB greenhouses
- Location for seed trays until ready for transfer to nursery operations
- Opportunities for educational programming and partnerships



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Site / Location review

- Brianne + Consultant (Christine Burow) completed a preliminary assessment of potential sites in City of London
 - Some City – owned land
 - Some private lands
- Location assessment criteria developed
 - Suitable / Not suitable
 - Cost

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Other models that have arisen

- Public – private partnerships with local businesses
- Contract growing with private nurseries
 - CVC Warwick, GRCA Burford
 - Commercial tree nurseries
 - Greenhouse Academy
 - Others

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Sheridan Glen Williams Farm – pot-in-pot



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Mandate of a new community nursery

	Value from new nursery	Alternatives
Trees and shrubs – type & volume	Security of supply for desired species, volume, provenance	Existing commercial nurseries; Contract growing
Trees and shrubs – cost	No benefit	Existing commercial nurseries
Educational programming	High value but hard to monetize; also can use to support Urban Forest Strategy & London Plan's communications goals	Existing programs
Social programming	As above	Existing programs

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What's next?

- Consultant preparing draft of business case and financial modelling; location assessment options
- Workshops to observing partners in other communities (Spring 2018)
- Summer 2018 Final report prepared
 - Share findings

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Questions?

- Brianne Curry, ReForest London
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519-936-9548 ext 226

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**Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Work Plan – 2018**

March 2018

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Planting & Monitoring Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to follow the progress of recommendations made in the Tree Planting Strategy and the Urban Forest Strategy Monitor progress of the watering program 	ReForest London/Tarik	Q3	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Green Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has recently voted to try and take Wellington County's "Green Legacy" model (through which school children volunteer at county-owned greenhouses to grow, distribute, and plant free trees throughout the County) province wide. Rob Johnson, the program manager in Wellington, attended TFAC in Spring 2016 to share information about their program. We then recommended to PEC that the City investigate the possibility of bringing such a program to London, in partnership with local partners, and possibly Middlesex County. They supported this recommendation ReForest London's Ontario Trillium Foundation bid proposal was accepted in June 2017 An update will be provided to TFAC in September regarding the progress and status of the initiative 	TBD – New ReForest London Rep	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is expected to have enormous impacts on Canadian forests, with a minimum of 4°C of warming predicted for our country (vs. the global average of 2°C) by the end of the century, and worst case projections from the IPCC suggesting that increases as high as 10°C may be possible (for Canada) • Goal is to develop recommendations around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acquisition and establishment of more southerly stock ○ Piloting more southern species as street trees ○ Collaborating with more southern municipalities on climate change issues ○ Revised numbers for max warming for Canada by end of century now stand at 14°C, following unexpectedly rapid warming in the past 2 years since the last IPCC report came out ○ Follow-up on recommendations that were made around these issues last year. Request an update on the progress of these recommendations and make further and determine if further recommendations concerning the use of a standardized “climate scenario” for planning are required 	Randy	Q2	\$0	Building a Sustainable City 1E: Fund innovative ways to adapt to Climate Change.
Committee Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential educational/outreach opportunities for members to possibly attend to help keep abreast of current developments in urban forestry (e.g., forestry conferences) and plan to have at least 3 TFAC members attend such opportunities this year. 	TFAC	Ongoing	\$500	Innovative and Supportive Organizational Practices 2B: Use innovative and best practices in all organizational and management activities

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Fruit & Nut Tree Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a growing interest in food security issues in London. With climate change, food prices are expected to increase by 11-131% (depending on species) for staples such as corn, rice and wheat by 2050: an increase in food prices of as much as 4% is expected for 2016 alone Feb. 2017: TFAC supported AAC's Urban Agriculture conference last year. Recommendations on this issue this year would probably be pretty short Continue to monitor progress around this topic with respect to the Tree Planting Strategy 	Randy	Q3	\$0	Caring and Compassionate Services 3A: Eliminate barriers for individuals facing poverty, mental health and addictions and help them find pathways to be successful.
Phased Planting in Unassumed Subdivisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC made a recommendation to PEC concerning the idea of doing two phases of plantings in new subdivisions to speed up planting last year; was supported by PEC Andrew has said it should be possible to make progress on this issue in 2017 – For 2018, follow-up on status of progress 	Craig/Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Shade Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC received presentation and report from UWO environmental health promotion students in 2016, and recommend City consider adopting a shade policy that would deal with both living and manmade sources of shade on city properties; was supported by PEC. Toronto already has a municipal shade policy in place and could be a great source of inspiration Randy (MLHU) will continue to spearhead this (Although park/recreational space-focused, Toronto's policy was driven by efforts from their local health unit) 	Randy	Q4	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Invasives Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of invasive tree species within London's Urban Forest continues to be of great concern to TFAC: London's two most common trees (by stem count and volume) are both invasive species We should look to see some progress on this issue in the Tree Planting Strategy, the City's new Invasives Strategy, and the Tree Planting Guidelines. TFAC has previously recommended a "Non-Invasive Species First" planting policy wherein an invasive species would never be planted in a given planting location first (i.e., could only be considered as a replacement after another tree had been proven to fail, whereas now, an invasive species could be used right from the start) 	Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E April presentation by City Staff
Woodland Acquisition Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC wishes to gain a better understanding of how the woodland acquisition policy currently works We hope to request presentation this spring (2017) and provide comment from there 	Craig	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
Tree Planting Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to facilitate collaboration between Lydon Hydro and City Staff to ensure Right Tree, Right Place London Hydro would like to be consulted and kept in the loop for the change process of the guidelines Working Group is to be established by the City and London Hydro is to be included 	Roberto	Q3	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Urban Forest Strategy: Tree Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide feedback on tree retention policy ● Provide feedback on “No Net Loss” policy (draft expected December 2017; communications plan may be drafted over summer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feb. 2017: On tree loss topic, City Tree Protection Bylaw currently in limbo (since focus was turned to the private tree protection bylaw last year instead) – we should seek to follow-up about this item this year. Andrew notes that it will likely will be December, 2017 that that review will be ready. (May start as early as July for a communication plan) ○ Feb. 2017: Private Tree Protection Bylaw is expected to undergo a one-year review (Sept. 1 2017): City expects they’ll be taking comments, doing open houses, etc. with report back to PEC in the Fall ○ TFAC has previously expressed interest in receiving an (informal) 6 month update ○ TFAC should aim to get comments in relatively early – may be August/September 	Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A: Address and manage the infrastructure gap to maintain what we have now and reduce the tax burden on future generations.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C: Plant more trees and better protect them from deforestation, invasive species, and other threats.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E: Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.</p>

NEW 2018					
Boulevard Tree Bylaw	City Staff will be looking for TFAC input on replacement bylaw	Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
COMPLETED					
Urban Forest Strategy: General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Staff will be looking for TFAC input on replacement bylaw The Urban Forest Strategy is a multi-million dollar 20 year strategy to help ensure the growth and health of one of the Forest City's most important features. Providing advice on the formation and implementation of London's Urban Forest Strategy is at the core of TFAC's mandate. Monitor progress on the Urban Forest Strategy and make recommendations concerning its ongoing implementation Ensure PEC is being kept informed of progress on the UFS Receive 2 UFS Semi-Annual Updates <i>(It is noted that a template for a semi-annual updated was provided to Ivan Listar last year but not really followed in the first update: we should revisit our template and look for a more formalized structure in the reporting this year)</i> 	Amber & Roberto		\$0	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A: Address and manage the infrastructure gap to maintain what we have now and reduce the tax burden on future generations.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C: Plant more trees and better protect them from deforestation, invasive species, and other threats.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E: Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.</p>
Tree Planting Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist City staff in the development of a Planting Strategy for London (as a part of the UFS) Provide feedback on "Right Tree Right Place" (part of the UFS) Feb. 2017: Tree Planting Strategy is under development, and City staff have developed a number for how many new trees need to be planted each year (~45,000) for ___ years in order to reach canopy cover targets. TFAC should expect to review a draft this spring and provide comment on it. Staff would like us to specifically explore, as a part of this, how we can incent private landowners to plant trees. (Planting on city-owned land, by comparison, will be the "easy part"). 			\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

<p>Infrastructure Replacement Projects in Roadways</p>	<p>We should also inquire as to the status of the Community Planting Projects Report which is normally prepared in January by Parks Planning's Community Projects Coordination each year.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road work and tree cutting in Rowntree and Queenston neighbourhoods over the past two years has provided an opportunity to review the processes affecting street trees in London Our goal is to make recommendations to improve citizen understanding of decisions to make removals, and to reduce the impact of construction on trees Feb. 2017: A presentation was received in the last couple of months about the work happening on roadways and a new system the City has to "score" contractors based on the work they've done and problems encountered. This is expected to reduce the odds of Queenston-type damage happening again. However, TFAC would still like to review core road construction documents as they relate to trees and make comment. 	<p>Working group</p>		<p>\$0</p>	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A</p>	<p>51 2</p>
<p>Tree establishment recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to reduce mortality of newly planted street and park trees, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future tree watering options report for 2017 Potted stock in lieu of caliper trees Feb. 2017: Currently appears likely that potted trees will be a greater focus in the Tree Planting Strategy in light of the cost savings they bring and the need to significantly increase planting levels to hit municipal targets. (Great progress here). We are still waiting on a report on watering options for trees and should consult with staff about when this could be prepared. 	<p>Amber</p>		<p>\$0</p>	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C</p>

<p>Identification of Publicly Owned Plantable Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the largest single landowner in London, the City owns an enormous amount of plantable land, not all of which is in parks. TFAC will work to make recommendations to help ensure that there is a regular process for identifying all plantable spaces on City-owned land and that there are systems in place to help get them planted and contributing to London's canopy cover targets. Invite James MacKay, Ecologist to a future meeting (2017) to speak to this. 			<p>\$0</p>	<p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C</p>
<p>Trees Protection Strategy Construction Mitigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity for the TFAC to review and possibly make recommendations to this tree protection strategy for construction mitigation early spring 2017 (added following the Road Work Construction presentation in November 2016) 	<p>Amber</p>			<p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E</p>
<p>Orientation for new City Forester</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAC will provide a presentation and briefing to the new City Forester about recent recommendations and the areas our group is hoping to focus on moving forward 				<p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C & 3E</p>
<p>Asian Longhorn Beetle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian Longhorn Beetle Report & Update on current state of affairs in North America will be given by City staff (suggested by Andrew) 				<p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C</p>