

Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

Report

9th Meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
September 26, 2018
Committee Room #3

Attendance PRESENT: R. Mannella (Chair), J. Koelheide, C. Linton, A. Morrison, N. St. Amour, M. Szabo, S. Teichert, R. Walker; and P. Shack (Secretary)

ABSENT: C. Haindl, T. Khan, A. Meilutis and G. Mitchell

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

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 interest were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Boulevard Tree Protection By-Law

That, the following action be taken with respect to the Boulevard Tree Protection By-law:

the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee BE REQUESTED to have the opportunity to review street tree species that are listed in the Design and Specification Manual prior to final decision, to prevent fruit trees from being planted on boulevards.

it being noted that the attached presentation from S. Rowland, Urban Forestry Planner, with respect to Boulevard Tree Protection By-Law, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 8th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 8th Report of the Trees and Forestry Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on August 22, 2018, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council resolution with respect to the 7th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee from its meeting held on July 25, 2018

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council Resolution adopted at its meeting held on July 25, 2018, with respect to the 7th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Removal of Trees- J. Spence

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 removal of trees.

5.2 National Tree Day

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee heard a verbal presentation from J. Spence, Manager, Urban Forestry, with respect to National Tree Day being held on September 26, 2018.

5.3 Urban Forest Strategy Working Group-S. Rowland

That consideration of the Urban Forest Strategy Working Group BE DEFERRED to a future meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee.

5.4 Shade Policy Update-R. Walker

That it BE NOTED that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee heard a verbal update from R. Walker, with respect to the Shade Policy.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.



London CANADA

Boulevard Tree Protection By-law



Trees & Forests Advisory Committee
September 26, 2018
Sara Rowland – Urban Forestry Planner



London CANADA

Overview

We Are “The Forest City”

Urban Forest Strategy (2014) “Protect More, Plant More”

Tree Canopy Cover Goal 34% by 2065

Update Boulevard Tree Protection By-law

The London Plan – Walkable, attractive, shaded streets and neighbourhoods



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What is the purpose?

- Protect City tree on the boulevard from the actions of others
- Process to remove a street tree that is not a hazard
- Fees to recover our costs
- Not about restricting maintenance, day to day operations
- Boulevard = portion of every road allowance not used as sidewalk, driveway, travelled roadway or shoulder



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Background – Previous Report

February 2015 – Public Participation Meeting to repeal, replace Boulevard Tree Protection By-law

Directed Civic Administration to report back

Report delayed by Tree Protection By-law development



Issues with the current By-law

No Part I set fines – no ability to issue “tickets”

Part III Laying of an Information

1. Charge
2. Summons
3. Court (or Early Resolution)

Consensual Removal fee insufficient



Public Comments (2015)

- Allow easier planting of tree = without permission of City
- Reconsider fees, consensual removal
- Implications for developments requiring tree removal?



2018 Public Engagement

Building and Development Liaison Forum

Urban Agriculture Steering Committee

1. Evaluate public land for “foodscaping”
2. Edible trees – where safely maintained, long-term (rarely on boulevards)

Other initiatives underway:

- map edible trees on City lands
- identify suitable community orchard sites
- promote adoption of existing apple orchard



How we addressed concerns

Street tree planting

- Down from 6 years (2013) to 1 year (in most cases) – Emerald Ash Borer
- Proactively identifying plantable spots
- Homeowner requests – City plants in next planting season for “free”
- Consider edible trees - where appropriate



Main Changes Proposed

- Improve language of By-law
- Tool for efficient enforcement – Part I or Part III
- Increase fees for removal and replacement of boulevard tree where City Engineer agrees
- Tree replacement 1 tree:10 cm DBH removed - replacement tree(s) may go elsewhere
- Fee includes interim boulevard repair e.g. stumping, seed



Remaining Unchanged

- City Engineer's By-law
- Forestry Operations will administer and enforce
- Scope of By-law – trees on boulevard
- Persons wishing to plant a tree require consent of City Engineer

City Engineer has broad authority to manage trees on boulevard, or adjacent trees threatening public safety



What We Propose to Do Next

- Receive, consider and, if appropriate, incorporate suggestions from public
- Consult Trees and Forestry Advisory Committee
- Finalize By-law
- Return with By-law to appropriate Committee, first quarter of 2019

