

From: Doug Dittmer

Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 3:26 PM

To: ppmclerks <ppmclerks@london.ca>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Pre-registration for Public Participation Meeting File Z-9011 October 19, 2020

Heather Thank you for your response. While I appreciate there may be some IT security issues about handing out a password for a zoom meeting, it should be possible to run a safe encrypted zoom tie in for the public so they can comfortably participate. To have the zoom option only for the council and staff is hypocritical and shows complete ignorance of the growing second wave of Covid. I only hope that no one who attends the meeting in person contracts the disease, or that the meeting becomes a super spreader event.

With the actual tree by-law becoming publicly available only this past Wednesday, it seems that after so much time, somewhat puzzling why the City would only give 2 days to review and respond to a lengthy document.

That being said, I would like to have it recorded that I object to the proposed by-law. In particular the section that defines the tree geographic boundary makes no sense to me. Why would 3% of the land within the City boundaries, be excluded? The section reads:

(ii) Urban Growth Boundary Geographic Limitation Public comment was received at the Public Participation Meeting regarding the arbitrary protection of individual large trees as Distinctive Trees based on a geographic marker, the Urban Growth Boundary. Those large trees inside the Urban Growth Boundary are protected as Distinctive Trees, while those outside the Urban Growth Boundary are not. The Urban Growth Boundary is invisible on the ground, which makes it difficult for the public to know where the by-law applies. Often, when the public complain about cutting of large trees outside the Urban Growth Boundary, they are surprised to learn the trees are not protected and may express confusion or exasperation as to why those trees outside the Urban Growth Boundary were not protected. 70% 27% 3% 632 - Initial Call/Inquiry 242 - Approved Permits 28 - Denied Permits 58% 39% 3% 98 - Investigation Completed By-law Does Not Apply or Permit Already Issued 87 - Educational Conversation and/or Letter 5 - Fines and/or Orders It is not recommended to remove the geographic limit (the Urban Growth Boundary) within which large trees are protected as Distinctive Trees, although this invisible line does create confusion for the public - particularly those reporting tree removals in the rural area. To remove this limit may impact staff workloads, particularly for enforcement. There are other factors that affect rural tree management decisions including normal farming practices; municipal drain maintenance; resource extraction; many of those are exempted activities or mandated through other legislation, but if there is a complaint they still have to be investigated to discover the details. Recommendation: No change to the Distinctive Tree definition.

Despite numerous references about the confusion for the public, no change to the distinctive tree definition is suggested. Having lived beside the rampant tree destruction to create a subdivision near our home, I was shocked when, after the City tree by-law officer asked for the cutting be stopped, he was told by the solicitor of the developer they were outside of the by-

law zone (on the west side of Dingman Creek), and thus exempt. This summer we experienced flooding across our property from the adjacent property, and despite written requests and videos for the City to investigate, nothing was ever done. It seems ironic that the City on one hand talks about all the health benefits to the public provided by trees, but on the other hand apparently this does not apply to the rural areas.

Please extend the tree line to include all of London, including the rural areas. The impact of staff workloads would be minimal, as there would be no confusion in the eyes of the public, no change to existing farm practices who have already adjusted their fields, and there are no municipal drains out this way in any event. Please do the right thing.

Stay safe,
Doug Dittmer
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