

# URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**WEDENSDAY  
JANUARY 23, 2013**

**START TIME: 5:00PM**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 1, 3RD FLOOR, CITY HALL**

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Mike Anderson
<b>CALL TO ORDER:</b>	5:00pm
<b>TIMEKEEPER</b>	Carleigh Lewis – New Trees Forestry Operations Co-op
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p>Councillor Mark Elliott, part time  Councillor Bill Phillips, part time  Mike Anderson  Gavin Pally  Ron Calvert  John Dick  Peter Howes  John Sheehan  Elizabeth Chitty  Michael O'Neill  David Stevens  John Stevens  Bruce Zimmerman  Keith Bessy</p>

## Agenda topics

**5:00 INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**5:05 INVENTORY OF TREES**

- Gavin Pally (Forestry Supervisor) reported on visiting the City of Oakville to discuss their tree inventory and provided the following comments:
  - Oakville has a \$66 million forestry budget
  - They have a full-time employee devoted to GIS navigation
  - All of Oakville's tree planting tenders for contractors included the GIS tracking of the trees as they were planted
  - Oakville had 4 crews (1 Arborist, 1 Student) to collect the inventory and the timeframe for completion was 3 years (boulevards only)
  - Oakville has a small version of the GIS software on their website so citizens can input standard information about their trees to make it easier for collection.
- With regards to the inventory for St. Catharines:
- In meeting with the Geomatics Division of TES information was supplied that the existing software for mapping utilities, property lines, roads, etc. could meet the inventory requirements for trees
- the data collection phase will require some research
  - replication of Oakville's system of data collection is one possibility - 1 arborist collecting the tree data and 1 student imputing the data – staffing, timelines, budget TBD
- it is also possible to include the completed tree inventory from the Region (trees on regional Rds) - issues of software

compatibility, data fields, etc. must be examined

- Inventory collection will start at Port Weller – the largest infestation of EAB is found in this area of the City so this is the logical location to begin data collection

5:45

## EAB

- EAB has contributed to a dramatic death rate of Ash trees this year and that trend will continue (ie. Sarnia/Kent/Sussex, Toronto)
- Questions and Comments:
  - Will it affect trees on the Niagara escarpment?
  - City of Toronto found that every untreated ash will get EAB
  - If an ash tree is 30% infected or extremely old it will die regardless of injections, therefore it's only logical to inject younger trees.
  - Oakville continues to inject as many trees as possible
  - RCS and TES will meet January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to discuss costs for removal and replacements and prepare a report for Council,.
  - At the moment, RCS is removing all ash trees in parks regardless of their status, and replanting in Spring 2013.
  - Public Awareness Suggestions:
    - Information on our website
    - Ward Meetings
    - Public should be notified regarding EAB removals on adjacent public properties

6:00

## PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE BY LAW

- Ron and John researched several different municipalities' private property tree by-laws and selected a number of variables to present to the Committee for discussion
- a list of items from other by-laws was presented to the Committee
- also included were comments regarding the following:
  - Request for arbourist report prior to remove of trees
  - Prohibitions on trees (30cm)
  - Motherhood statements such as "trees help global warming".
- Committee members would like some feedback from Councillors on the items that would be acceptable, enforceable - also staffing and funding issues if applicable
- Toronto has a large budget and administration devoted to protect private trees.
- One benefit of the private property tree by law in Toronto was it puts a value to trees.
- Property under development is completely separate from the private tree by-law
- Why are we protecting the trees and what the underlining issues
  - Development issues
  - Long term issues as opposed to short term issues – total tree canopy vs. NIMBY
  - Political climate
- if a property owner wants to develop their property an arborist report is necessary
- What are the responsibility of various City departments – RCS/TES – public trees - Planning - Development
- What is the goal of this Private Property Tree By-Law?
  - Maintain existing property rights as much as possible?
  - Control tree conservation through restrictive by-laws – preserve and protect
  - Education and stewardship: Promote public tree conservation.
  - Aid in reaching the 30% target for tree canopy
  - Protect specific trees by rarity, age, historic value, etc.

Discussion to continue at next meeting. Committee members are encouraged to forward any comments or suggestions.

#### REVIEW OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

- To be discussed at a later meeting

6:50

#### 2013 SPRING PLANTING INITIATIVES

- RCS parks crews are currently in the process of removing ash in parks (To date: Village Gate Park, Happy Rolphs, John Page Park, Port Weller Park, Eastport Park)
- 1 on 1 replacement for all ash trees removed in parks
- Approach for boulevard trees will be discussed at January 24, 2013 RCS/TES
- 1500 trees *to be planted* in parks, watercourses, open green space to increase canopy cover
- 500-700 on boulevards

New Business...

- Tree planting information on the City's website will be updated to 2013 information
- Committee minutes will be approved by the committee before being posted on-line.

#### LINKS FOR VARIOUS CITY'S PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE BY LAW

- Oakville: <http://www.oakville.ca/assets/general%20-%20residents/2009-145.pdf>
- Toronto: [http://www.toronto.ca/trees/bylaws\\_policies.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/trees/bylaws_policies.htm)
- Kingston: <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/bylaws/trees/index.asp>
- Hamilton (Ancaster): <http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/A0720AE6-5942-4808-B980-D3BC7EA8B32D/0/PrivatePropertyAncaster2000118.pdf>
- Hamilton (Dundas): <http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/24128276-E933-4A36-B453-BC622CACBC0E/0/PrivatePropertyDundas451399.pdf>
- Hamilton (Stoney Creek): <http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/C5AD9B54-3705-4CE6-BF29-5BC102E86733/0/PrivatePropertyStoneyCreek440196.pdf>
- Barrie: <http://www.barrie.ca/City%20Hall/ByLaws/BylawDocs/By-law%202005-120.pdf>

MEETING ADJOURNED:

7:00 PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5:00pm.