

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 2014

START TIME: 5:00PM

CITY HALL: ATRIUM

MEETING CALLED BY	Elizabeth Chitty
CALL TO ORDER:	5:00pm
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON	Elizabeth Chitty
MINUTES	Mike Anderson
ATTENDEES	Elizabeth Chitty Michael O'Neill John Stevens Councillor Bill Phillips Peter Howes Steven Holmes Ron Calvert David Stevens Bruce Zimmerman
REGRETS	Councillor Mark Elliott Gavin Pally
ABSENT	

Agenda topics

5:05 PM

#2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the agenda • Consensus agreement 	

5:08 PM

#3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2014

DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move 'Kieth Bessey' to absent section • Correct spelling of 'Councillor' with additional 'l' • Move 'Mike and Evan M.....' from Item 5 to Item 4 • Item 7 add 'Photo Taken' • Motion to accept minutes as amended • Motion seconded 	

- Motion carried

5:13 PM

#4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No Business arising from minutes

5:14 PM

#5. NEW ITEMS

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for New Committee Members • Posting of Meetings on Web Site • Refreshing Website
ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike A will follow up with Clerks regarding request for new members • The dates and times for all meetings will be posted on the website • Mike A will follow up with City staff to refresh website

5:30PM

#6. NEW CHAIRPERSON

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Chitty will resign as Chairperson effective this meeting
ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Howes has put his name forward as new Chairperson • Motion to acclaim Peter Howes as Committee Chairperson • Motion to approve • Motion seconded • Motion carried

5:35PM

#7. AODA COMPLIANCE

1 outstanding form to be completed

5:36 PM

#8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and shared information from committee members regarding the Public Consultation for the Private Property Tree By-law • Bruce Z – if permits are required then safety issues regarding dead trees must be considered – majority do not like any restrictions • John S – There were questions regarding the legality of infringement of rights on private property tree issues • Mike O – majority against any bylaw – question of rights of private property trees damaged by

adjacent development – pointed out that last comment on written notes submitted to committee from meeting were in line with a sensible approach to the bylaw

- Steve H – first meeting generally opposed to bylaw of any kind – second meeting more proponents for protection of trees, education
- Peter H – notes submitted in copy sent to committee members
- Ron C – comment from arborist that the City should supply a rebate to property owners for planting trees – there should be a site plan for property owners planting trees – the City should lead the way with a good example of forestry practices – some City trees removed unnecessarily – most felt they should be responsible for their own property
- Bill P – only at second meeting – most felt the City had no rights in backyards

ACTION

- refer to staff report on public consultation

5:55 PM

#9. STAFF REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion regarding analysis of survey and written comments/notes from meeting

6:12 PM

#10. NEXT STEP

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding the next step necessary in producing a report for Council • Some interest in gathering more information, validity of survey, information from other municipal bylaws, what opportunities present themselves here, what are the best means to an end, protection of big trees and trees of significance, additional public meetings • Three plans considered – Plan A – Committee does not recommend a bylaw at this time but recommends an education program be developed, Plan B – the committee will not make a recommendation at this time but continue to access and/or analysis additional information to be accessed through public meetings, Plan C – the Committee recommends creating a bylaw regarding trees of significance • Motion – that the City of St. Catharines should adopt the Public Tree By Law prior to taking action on a Private Property Tree Bylaw • Motion to accept • Motion seconded • Motion carried

7:02 PM

#11. MOTION TO VOTE ON PLAN FOR STAFF REPORT

DISCUSSION	
------------	--

- Motion to vote on Plan for Staff report
- Motion seconded
- Motion defeated

7:07 PM

#12. OTHER BUSINESS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike O thanked Elizabeth on behalf of the committee for all of the hard work she has performed and patience that she has exhibited during her time as Committee Chair

MEETING ADJOURNED:	7:10pm
NEXT MEETING:	Regular Meeting: March 20, 2014 5:00-7:00pm