



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Minutes

**Meeting:** Urban Forestry Advisory Committee  
**Location:** Atrium  
**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2014  
**Time:** 5:00 to 7:00  
**Recording Secretary:** Emily Davis

### Meeting Attendees:

| Invited | Name                | Title | Representing |
|---------|---------------------|-------|--------------|
| Present | Peter Howes         |       |              |
|         | Mike Anderson       |       |              |
|         | Michael O'Neill     |       |              |
|         | John Stevens        |       |              |
|         | Stephen Holmes      |       |              |
|         | Brian Delaney       |       |              |
|         | Jacilynn Lewis      |       |              |
| Regrets | Gavin Pally         |       |              |
|         | David DeRocco       |       |              |
|         | Councillor Phillips |       |              |
|         | Councillor Elliott  |       |              |
|         | Bruce Zimmerman     |       |              |
| Absent  | Ron Calvert         |       |              |
|         | David Stevens       |       |              |

**Guest**  
**Presenter**

**Welcome from the Chair:** Peter Howes at 5:05

**Agenda Items and Deliverables**

**Staff**

| Agenda Items and Deliverables   | Staff                                  |
|---|--|
| <b>1. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:</b><br>Thursday, May 08, 2014  | John<br>Stevens<br>& Brian<br>Delaney  |
| <b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>  | Mike<br>O'Neill &<br>Stephen<br>Holmes |
| <b>3. Business Arising from Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Anderson asks if the education piece that the committee is talking about, is separate than the bylaw? It is important to stay with what is pertinent to the bylaw because that is all that the council will want to see in the report. Education about trees in general is not something that this committee needs to deal with.</li> <li>• The report that goes to council needs to be specific to the bylaw.</li> <li>• There is a general misunderstanding as to what exactly needs to be in this report, what is important to be there in order for the bylaw to pass.</li> <li>• The report will need to include some sort of species list, with some rationale.</li> <li>• We can contribute to the education by giving rationale to the homeowners. They will need to be given something that explains to them why this bylaw is important.</li> <li>• There is a suggestion that the information given to homeowners in some sort of pamphlet form would direct people to a city website that would provide more information, not only about the bylaw, but about more technical information about trees. Technical information such as when to water trees and what trees are good for what kind of soil.</li> <li>• Stephen Holmes suggested the pamphlet containing what the city printed last year in the Garden City Current since it was already approved information. There was a general agreement that we would need to find this article and the committee would need to approve it.</li> <li>• The information that would go into the article is something that forestry and RCS could work on together.</li> <li>• Mike Anderson suggested that there be a link to social media considering the amount of time that people spend on it in recent years.</li> <li>• Issue with this is that then you need a person almost full time on social media.</li> <li>• There is a lot of interest in trees from the community and social media could help build more interest.</li> </ul> |  |

| Agenda Items and Deliverables  | Staff |
|--|-------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen Holmes suggests that it might be important to see what the city currently has for trees on their website and decide if this promotes education of trees and if it is easy to navigate to get the information that you are looking for.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mike O'Neill &amp; Jacilynn Lewis will review the website and its content and report back next meeting.</li> </ul>   |       |
| <p><b>4. Member Resignation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duane Todd resigned from the committee.</li> </ul>  |       |
| <p><b>5. Significant Tree Species List</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen Holmes asks for a clarification of what the committee needs to make a report to council and how it works.</li> <li>Mike explains the process. First, the committee makes the report. Council approves it and then legal writes the bylaw.</li> <li>The committee needs to make the species list with its rationale. Penalties and administration of the bylaw can be recommended but are not finalized by the committee. The legal department enforces the penalty.</li> <li>Stephen Holmes would like Mike to seek legal's advice in the manner. Holmes would also like what is necessary in the report in writing from the city because he does not think it is appropriate to just talk about the criteria informally.</li> <li>The important information has been addressed in the duration of the meetings, it is necessary now to sit down and review it.</li> <li>Permits are not necessary for removal of a significant tree. A free application is the process for tree removal of a significant tree.</li> <li>The list of tree species that Mike and Gavin sent out need rationales. Stephen Holmes says that he was under the impression that this was supposed to be included in this list as it was supposed to come from the professionals, but this was not the understanding of Mike and Gavin.</li> <li>Mike reminds the committee that most of the trees rationale for being on the list is that they are less than 10% of the canopy cover in St. Catharines as per last meetings discussion.</li> <li>Some members are ok with fruit trees and ornamentals being left off the species list.</li> <li>Mike asks if the members are ok with blue beech trees being left off.</li> </ul> |       |

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| <p>Blue beech trees don't get large in diameter; however, they are a valuable tree just due to their variety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another member believes that it should only be native tree species however this is not the feeling of everyone.</li> <li>• A member adds that at a minimum, native species should be added, but non-naïve species should be included.</li> <li>• Idea that the list should not be all encompassing because it needs to be manageable for forestry to inspect all these trees. However, the members are reminded that these trees are less than 10% of canopy cover so the work will be minimal for forestry.</li> <li>• Public needs to be educated on what tree species they have in their backyards.</li> <li>• Good to be aware that hardwoods grow at a slower pace.</li> <li>• Need to know why we are protecting a particular type of tree. We would protect them because they are rare or uncommon, long lived and/or increase diversity. Hardwoods would fall in this category often regardless of speed of growth.</li> <li>• In regards to disqualifying ornamentals, it is important to note that with newer subdivisions, people are having smaller yards that would not fit a large hardwood tree. People will have to start looking at smaller trees and it would make some of them more significant.</li> <li>• Need to decide if the committee is to promote good exotics or just say no to exotics altogether.</li> <li>• Peter Howes disagrees with the notion of calling trees "good or bad", but other committee members think this is the truth about it.</li> <li>• Promoting native is not just about the trees, but also promoting good, natural ecology which will benefit all wildlife.</li> <li>• A point is brought up that we cannot protect only native on this bylaw because it would contradict other tree bylaws.</li> <li>• Nomination process included in this bylaw could cover non-native species.</li> <li>• Conifers were not brought up at this point because they do not help increase canopy cover. John Stevens is interested in seeing conifers protected.</li> <li>• It does not really seem at this point that we are to add any trees to the list provided by Mike Anderson and Gavin Pally.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Davis is to set meeting up to discuss the tree list further for next meeting. Those included in the invitation will be Ron Calvert, John Stevens, Michael O'Neil, Bruce Zimmerman, Gavin Pally, Mike</li> </ul> |       |

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| Anderson and Emily Davis.  |       |
| <b>6. New Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike O'Neill brings up the fact that Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority currently has a challenge going on for tree planting. People register their trees after they are planted to see how many each municipality can plant on private property. Mike O'Neill will send the website to members of the committee to view.</li> <li>• Looking at the Urban Forestry Plan, the idea is that the members are to be proactive in advising council if something comes up. Taking the initiative is important here. There is a feeling that the committee should be more proactive then they have been in the past.</li> </ul> |       |
| <b>7. Adjournment</b><br>Meeting was adjourned at 6:59   |       |
| <b>8. Next Meeting</b><br>5:00-7:00pm on Thursday, July 10, 2014 in Atrium<br>Chair: Peter Howes   |       |

### Attachments:

UFAC Significant Tree Species for By-Law

- ✓ Blue Beech
- ✓ Hornbeam
- ✓ Hickory
- ✓ Kastura
- ✓ Yellowwood
- ✓ American Beech
- ✓ European Beech
- ✓ Ginkgo
- ✓ Kentucky Coffee Tree
- ✓ Laburnum
- ✓ Liquid Amber
- ✓ Black Walnut
- ✓ Tulip
- ✓ Cucumber Magnolia
- ✓ Blackgum
- ✓ Oak
- ✓ American Elm

- ✓ Sugar Maple
- ✓ Sassafras
- ✓ Pawpaw
- ✓ Butternut