



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Minutes

Meeting: Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
Location: Atrium
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014
Time: 5:00 to 7:00
Recording Secretary: Emily Davis

Meeting Attendees:

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

**Guest
Presenter**

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

Agenda Items and Deliverables	Staff
1. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2014	
2. Approval of the Agenda Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough voting members in attendance 	
3. Business arising from minutes (website & content) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee will wait for Mike O'Neill to discuss this. 	
4. Significant Tree Species List <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member asks what the basic criterion was for the significant tree list that John Stevens and Gavin Pally put together. The main driver for deciding was diversity and uncommon/rare trees. A member asks if the list represents less than 10% of canopy cover. The answer is yes, perhaps all the species together are less than 10%. Silver Maple is a species we do not promote on city boulevards due to its size so do we protect it on private property? There is a general agreement that worthy silver maples will be caught in the nomination process outlined in previous meetings. Also, for Gavin Pally's team, it would not be worth inspecting every single silver maple someone has on their property. The list is meant to avoid any confusion for people. By saying "species" after certain varieties, it limits confusion of people wondering which type of oak, or beech that they have on their property. There are points of discussion on the list provided; the committee decides to hit each point one by one. First, wood-lots. There is a question about whether there are enough wood-lots in St. Catharines for this to be an issue. There is a regional tree by-law that covers woodlots, but not sure if this covers private wood-lots. There would be wood-lots on some agricultural land, but Mike Anderson believes that this would be separate from regular by-laws as agricultural land has its own laws. The species Red Mulberry that is sometimes found in wood-lots is 	

Agenda Items and Deliverables	Staff
<p>endangered; however, it is very difficult to determine if the species is actually hybridized with the White Mulberry and this could result in thousands of calls to the city asking if they can cut down their White Mulberry, believing that it is the endangered variety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be necessary to provide education on endangered species which are not allowed to be cut down regardless of the city's bylaw. • Second, conifers/evergreens. It would be acceptable to put them on, there are not many in St. Catharines, they are nice trees, resistant to bugs and they also have a long life span. • The major issue with many of these varieties is that they are constantly outgrowing their space. • Can conifers be pruned? Gavin Pally suggests that we might need to actually define/quantify prune. Someone might "prune" their trees, but in reality, they have cut it so far back that it will not survive past the season which defeats the purpose. • Conifers are important trees, but they tend to out-grow their space. It is fair to homeowners to tell them they cannot cut them down? Should this be left up to nomination as there are also some that are not necessary to protect? • White Pine is the tree of Canada; however, they can be a safety issue because in wind storms they are easily damaged. • There is agreement to add particular species of conifers: Tamarack, Eastern Hemlock & Red Pine. The education portion of the bylaw will discuss White Pine's importance, but also its flaws. • Third & Fourth, Sassafras and Pawpaw. They sucker and spread like crazy. • If it was by size, these trees do not get big so they do not help achieve canopy. • The decision is to include this in the education piece. • Fifth, American Chestnut. There is a feeling that this should likely just be included in the education piece because American Chestnuts are very rare, but are often confused with the very common Horse Chestnut. This will lead to calls from homeowners who think they have an American Chestnut and could cause a significant amount of work for the forestry department. • However, it is possible to put in the by-law that this list needs a 5 year review as the canopy cover changes over time. • Sixth, eastern flowering dogwood. Many people are purchasing the hybrid. This variety however is a native and is still growing here, not as uncommon as the American Chestnut. It is a small tree, but it is native, uncommon and should be on the list. There is an agreement on this. • Seventh, Silver/Red Maple. The size of these trees causes severe 	

Agenda Items and Deliverables	Staff
<p>damage from roots on urban properties. Gavin Pally has seen these trees lift house foundations. These trees should not be included but rather it might be best to leave this to the nomination process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to encourage people to nominate specific trees, but as for Silver and Red Maples, they are not appropriate trees for urban space, likely only country land, which is a minority of St. Catharines. • The committee agrees that we can add this to the education package. • Ninth, Latin names will be required for the bylaw. There was an agreement on this. • Criteria for the nomination process will require some research. It will be similar to a type of point system, where the tree will need a certain number of points in certain categories to qualify. Different categories could possibly weigh more than others. • Application to remove trees – the forms will be made for the committee. The committee will provide the information for them, but a different department will do it. • Liability issues do cause some risk when an arborist is telling someone that they cannot take down a tree that in the future, causes damage. • Solicitor will tell the committee what the penalties will be. • The property owners will be the only ones allowed to nominate a tree. This does not include tenants. • The education discussion will be saved for another day. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Stevens will write down the rationale to the list that Gavin and he put together and will sent it to Peter. • Mike Anderson and Emily Davis will do research on what the criteria should look like for nominating trees and how the decision will be made. • The Significant Tree List will be voted on at the next meeting when a quorum is present. 	
<p>5. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city workers who cut down dwarf hackberries on a municipal boulevard without informing the homeowner. Gavin Pally is going to look into this. It would not have been his department. It is possible that it was a sight line issue. 	
<p>6. Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm</p>	

Agenda Items and Deliverables	Staff
7. Next Meeting 5:00pm on Thursday, September 11, 2014 in Ante Room Chair: Peter Howes	

Notes:

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UFAC Significant Tree List

The following list was agreed upon, none of whom are abundant or even common in the city.

- Tulip Tree
- Cucumber Tree
- American Elm
- Slippery (Red) Elm
- Hackberry species
- Butternut
- Hickory species
- Beech species
- Oak species
- Hop Hornbeam
- Yellow Birch
- Sweet (Cherry) Birch
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Blackgum
- Sugar Maple
- Black Maple

Questions for Discussion During Meeting?

1. What about wood-lots? Will they be treated differently than city yards? In this case, would we also protect red mulberry, Eastern Cottonwood, wild black cherry?
2. Conifers/ever greens? Specifically Tamarack, Eastern Hemlock, White Pine and red Pine. Do we protect them or not?
3. Sassafras
4. Pawpaw
5. American Chestnut
6. Eastern Flowering Dogwood

7. Silver Maple
8. Red Maple
9. Including Latin names to avoid confusion with common names?