

Minutes

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Burgoyne Woods Room – City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

Mary Jane Clarke, Peter Thompstone, Dick Thomas, Stephen Holmes, Peter Howes, Lana Phan, John Stevens

Absent:

James McWilliam, Dave Wood

Staff Liaison:

Mike Anderson, Christine Adams, Jeffery Silcox-Childs, Emma Lahay

1. **Call meeting to order (Peter Thompstone)**
5:04 pm
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
 - Budget Update
 - Thank you letter from Donna Van Weenen
3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
 - Approved – Peter Howes
4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
 - Approved – John Stevens
5. **Presentations (Kristen Sullivan and Gavin Pally)**
 - Kristen Sullivan and Gavin Pally made a presentation on creating an all-encompassing tree by-law
 - Kristen Sullivan spoke on proposing one document to the public that includes both private and public tree-by-laws. Each by-law will be passed separately in order to make approval and changes to the by-laws much easier from a legal perspective.
 - Having separate by-laws will allow staff to address changes as they become present

- Currently public property trees are protected under the parks by-law created in 1972
 - This bylaw states there is a maximum fine of \$5000 for damage to any tree on publicly owned city property
 - Under new legislation the maximum fine is up to \$100000
- It was questioned if the ash tree removal will be covered under the public or private by-law.
 - Kristen Sullivan spoke that those Ash trees that are hazardous to property conditions will be covered by the property standards act.
- Stephen Holmes – Made a contact with the urban forest alliance. To send out contact information for any future reference
- Gavin Pally spoke on the tree-bylaw package that the City of Barrie has created. This is the template St. Catharines will likely follow.
 - Much of the information covered in this document is currently being performed by city staff, but is not written policy and therefore difficult to enforce
- Stephen Holmes asked a question regarding tree collection data
 - Jeff Silcox-Childs spoke that the inventory is currently limited to street trees and a few parks. This does not represent the entire urban forest (approximately 33 %.) It is the intention to have tree information collected on remaining municipal property in the future, pending budget approval.
- Peter Thompson spoke about planting more rare species in city parks.
 - This will help with public perception of protecting rare tree species on private property.
 - Mike Anderson will address this
- Stephen Holmes – What is the timeline of creating these bylaws?
 - Mike Anderson – as part of the state of the urban forest report that will be presented to council in January or February, council will be providing direction to staff to start the process of creating a tree by-law.
- Peter Thompson – will utility companies have to abide by these by-laws created?
 - Jeff Silcox-Childs spoke that most municipalities are exempt under tree by-laws.
 - Moving forward, we are planting the right tree in the right location in order to avoid pruning under overhead wires
- Thus far the previous Urban Forestry Committee investigated creating a private property tree bylaw
 - Significant tree list
 - Application for a significant tree

- Education component – need to be a significant part of the tree by-law package
- Once direction is provided, staff will work on creating the public portion of the by-law with compliance. The Green Advisory Committee will work towards creating the report for the private property by-law.

6. Business arising from the minutes

- 10 Wood Street
 - Discussions regarding a cost-sharing program for instances where the city is unable to place a tree on a boulevard
 - No movement made
- Update on 327 Glendale
 - Christine Adams was unable to get a quote on water since the previous meeting
 - Peter Thompson – would like to get the bar moved. Peter Thompson, James McWilliam, and Christine Adams to visit the site and choose a final location (somewhere in the middle of the pathway.)
 - Mike Anderson to contact O'Hara to get a quote on having the bar moved
 - Discussions on which way the bar will point. No decision made.
- Update on the Budget
 - Currently the committee has approximately \$19227. Up to \$13000 will be used to fund water at 327 Glendale.
 - Next year the committee will receive \$20000 pending budget approval
 - Peter Thompson believed this was supposed to be \$30000.
- Business Cards
 - Each member will get business cards with their name on it.
 - A city contact number will be listed on the cards.

7. Business

- *No new business*

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

9. Motion to Adjourn

- **John Stevens – 7:13 pm**