

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2018**

Item 23, Report No. 14, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 11, 2018.

#### **23      TREE REMOVAL – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PLAN FOR GOLF COURSES AND NURSERIES**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, dated April 4, 2018, be approved;
- 2) That the stakeholder engagement referenced in the report extend beyond golf course and nursery operators to include any ratepayer or other groups interested in the issue of tree preservation (e.g., Keep Vaughan Green) and who so inform appropriate staff or members of Council;
- 3) That stakeholders who currently enjoy an exception from the by-law be requested, as a sign of good faith, to refrain from the removal of any trees during the consultation process, save and except for those trees that constitute a clear and present danger to passers-by and whose condition can be certified as such by appropriate staff;
- 4) That a report of the consultation process be brought forward, if possible, to a Committee of the Whole meeting, no later than June of 2018; and
- 5) That the following Communications be received:
  - C15. Mr. Bob Moroz, President, and Members of Keep Vaughan Green, dated April 2, 2018; and
  - C64. Mark and Lucia Pulciani, Members of The Friends of Keep Vaughan Green, dated April 4, 2018.

#### **Purpose**

On March 20, 2018, Council adopted a new Tree By-law and Tree Protocol. The proposed by-law continued to exempt golf courses and nurseries from the requirement to obtain a Tree Removal Permit when injuring or destroying any tree with a diameter of 20 or more centimetres.

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#### **Report Highlights**

- In response to Council's direction at its March 20, 2018 meeting, staff are undertaking stakeholder engagement and additional research to determine whether or not golf courses and nurseries should continue to be exempted from the Tree Removal Permit process and requirements.
- To ensure full transparency, staff's review of the matter shall include meetings with golf courses and nurseries to determine the impact of removing the existing exemption as well as the undertaking of a municipal comparative analyses to understand how other jurisdictions balance the needs of their business community with their mandates to preserve and re-establish their tree canopies.

In the ongoing interest of best protecting the City's tree canopy, staff will be assessing whether golf courses and nurseries should continue to be exempt from the permit requirements. To this end, this report outlines the stakeholder engagement and research plan to be undertaken by staff.

#### **Recommendations**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.

#### **Background**

On March 20, 2018, Council adopted a new Tree By-law and Tree Protocol, in line with requirements of Bill 68 and the Municipal Act to protect and enhance municipal tree canopies.

In the interest of better protecting the City's tree canopy, Council directed staff to explore whether golf courses and nurseries should be exempted from the requirement to obtain Tree Removal Permits or whether these businesses should to be required to meet the same requirements imposed on other private property owners.

Staff have begun initial stakeholder engagements with various golf course owners/operators within the City and continue develop a contact list of nurseries, accordingly.

This report outlines a stakeholder engagement plan and additional research plans to engage golf courses and nurseries.

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#### **Previous Reports/Authority**

On March 20th, Council adopted the proposed Tree By-law and Protocol recommendations, listed online in the following report: [REVIEW OF CITY PROCESSES FOR PROTECTION OF TREES](#).

#### **Analysis and Options**

To develop a fulsome understanding of needed areas, staff will be undertaking the following activities:

##### ***Municipal comparison research***

Staff will be conducting an expanded review of municipal by-laws, which will include a wider review of the by-law provisions of all municipalities within the Region, as well as reaching out to other cities to better understand their practices and experiences.

##### ***Engaging golf courses and nurseries***

Staff will identify and continue to meet with golf courses and nurseries to:

- share information on recent changes to the tree by-law;
- learn about their tree canopies and their approaches to tree management;
- discuss tree removal permits and potential impacts of permitting; and
- obtain their input on best approaches to protect, preserve and restore the City's tree canopy.

The proposed engagement will take place over the next few months; thereafter, staff intend to report back with their findings and any recommendations regarding future related amendments to the Tree By-law and Tree Protocol.

#### **Financial Impact**

This report has no financial impact.

#### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

The research and engagement undertaken will contribute to understanding tree regulation, best practices and experiences for other municipalities and Regions across the Province of Ontario.

#### **Conclusion**

In accordance with the City's By-law Strategy, the proposed stakeholder engagement and research will ensure the City has a fulsome understanding of current legislation, practices, options and potential impacts to Vaughan residents, the business community and the environment, and as such to ensure the City is well positioned to make informed legislative and policy decisions.

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This plan will be undertaken by By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services in conjunction with Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations and Development Planning.

**For more information**, please contact: Gus Michaels, Director & Chief Licensing Officer, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services, ext. 8735

#### **Attachments**

There are no attachments.

#### **Prepared by**

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