

## **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.

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

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

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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.

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

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

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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.

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

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

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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**

Carol Ramchuram, Regulatory Policy Analyst, ext. 8783

C15.1

C	15
COMMUNICATION	
CW -	APRIL 4/18
ITEM -	23

**Britto, John**

**From:** KEEP VAUGHAN GREEN <keepvaughangreen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 2, 2018 4:11 PM  
**To:** Carella, Tony  
**Cc:** Clerks@vaughan.ca; Kostopoulos, Daniel; Reali, Mary; Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Council  
**Subject:** Tree Removal - Stakeholder Engagement and Research plan for Golf Courses  
**Attachments:** KVG\_Letter.pdf; tree cutting on BOT[8829].pdf

Dear Councillor Carella,

Thank you for meeting with members of Keep Vaughan Green last week to answer our questions regarding the planning approval process and to listen to some of our questions and concerns.

Please see our attached letter detailing our concerns regarding the exemption of golf courses from the Tree Preservation By-Law and our disappointment that community groups, such as Keep Vaughan Green, have not been invited to participate in the consultation process. Please also see the attached pdf document of photos that have been sent to us from concerned residents showing some of the mature trees that have recently been cut on the former board of trade golf course.

Sincerely,  
Keep Vaughan Green  
Bob Moroz, Laura Vecchiarelli Federico & Daniela Costantini





C15.2

KeepVaughanGreen.com

April 2, 2018

Re: Committee of the Whole, Wednesday April 4 Report # 14, Item 23  
**TREE REMOVAL – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PLAN FOR  
GOLF COURSES AND NURSERIES**  
[https://www.vaughan.ca/council/minutes\\_agendas/AgendaItems/CW\\_0404\\_18\\_23.pdf](https://www.vaughan.ca/council/minutes_agendas/AgendaItems/CW_0404_18_23.pdf)

Dear Councilor, Carella

When it comes to tree preservation, we are all stakeholders and therefore Keep Vaughan Green is requesting to be included in the upcoming consultation sessions to discuss the issue of exempting Golf Courses and Nurseries from the new Tree Preservation By-Law.

As you are well aware, the Toronto Board of Trade Golf Course has been sold and the new owners have submitted a residential development application to the City of Vaughan. Some of the members of Keep Vaughan Green have already witnessed an accelerated rate of tree cutting on the golf course as early as this past weekend. Keep Vaughan Green is very concerned that the Toronto Board of Trade Golf Course and others like it may take advantage of the existing exemption to cut trees at an alarming rate ahead of the upcoming consultation process.

Given that the new owners of the Toronto Board of Trade Golf Course have submitted a residential development application to the City of Vaughan, Keep Vaughan Green believes that the new owners will most certainly argue to continue the existing tree cutting exemption for golf courses. Keep Vaughan Green is also of the opinion that golf courses who have submitted development applications to the City, have technically ceased to be golf courses and are now in reality, land development enterprises. It is therefore logical and reasonable to believe that their continued argument to be exempt from the tree cutting by-law would be self-serving and one-sided.

During the course of the consultation process to consider whether Golf Courses should continue to be exempt from the revised Tree Preservation By-law, Keep Vaughan Green is very concerned that tree cutting on the golf course will be expedited during this period.

In light of these circumstances, Keep Vaughan Green requests that, as our Ward 2 Councilor, that you bring forward a resolution at the Wednesday April 4 Committee of the Whole meeting that facilitates the following;

C15.3

1. Effectively, on an interim basis, ban all tree cutting on golf courses until after the consultation process is completed and after the staff report is brought forward to Council for consideration to exempt golf courses from the new Tree Preservation By-law.
2. Allows community groups such as Keep Vaughan Green to participate in the consultation process to consider whether or not golf courses should be exempted from the new Tree Preservation By-law.

As our Ward Councilor, Keep Vaughan Green is counting on your support on this matter as well as all Members of Council, in order to facilitate a fair consultation process in consideration of the new Tree Preservation By-law and to stop any pre-emptive tree cutting while this matter is being considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bob Moroz  
Keep Vaughan Green  
President

CC: Members of Council  
Members of Keep Vaughan Green.

C15.4





C15.5



C15.6





C15.7

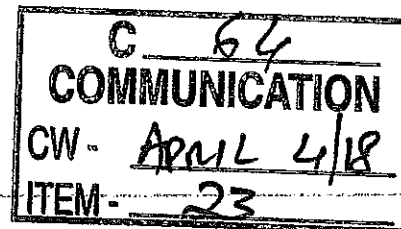


**Britto, John**

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**From:** Clerks@vaughan.ca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 9:20 AM  
**To:** Britto, John  
**Subject:** FW: ADDENDUM ITEM 23 April 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole Deputation

**Importance:** High



**From:** Mark and Lucia [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2018 12:09 AM  
**To:** Clerks@vaughan.ca; Bevilacqua, Maurizio <Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>; Carella, Tony <Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca>; Ferri, Mario <Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca>; Singh, Sunder <Sunder.Singh@vaughan.ca>; Rosati, Gino <Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca>; lafrate, Marilyn <Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca>; DeFrancesca, Rosanna <Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca>; Racco, Sandra <Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca>; Shefman, Alan <Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca>; Council <Council@vaughan.ca>; Kostopoulos, Daniel <Daniel.Kostopoulos@vaughan.ca>  
**Cc:** 'KEEP VAUGHAN GREEN' <keepvaughangreen@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** ADDENDUM ITEM 23 April 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole Deputation  
**Importance:** High

Dear Office of the City Clerk and City of Vaughan Council,

RE: April 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole ADDENDUM ITEM 23

I am writing to you on behalf of The Friends of Keep Vaughan Green with regards to the TREE REMOVAL – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PLAN FOR GOLF COURSES AND NURSERIES (Addendum Item 23). It is our understanding that you will be discussing this issue at the Committee of the Whole on April 4. We strongly believe that golf courses and nurseries should NOT be exempt from permit requirements that is stated in the new Tree By-Law and Tree Protocol which was approved on March 20, 2018.

Golf courses and nurseries contribute to the overall urban tree canopy in Vaughan and without the proper by-laws to protect these trees, we will put our tree canopy at risk. In 2012, the 5-Year Plan to Expand the Urban Forest Update stated that the percentage of canopy cover in the City of Vaughan is only at 17%, where the ideal range is between 20-25%. It is also noted that, "human and financial resources re-allocated to address [insect infestation and natural disaster strategies] have delayed the implementation of programs to enhance and expand the urban forest and has resulted in an annual work order deficit that is expected to grow exponentially over the next 10+ years..." If we allow golf courses and nurseries to be exempt from this by-law, then we will be working against our efforts at expanding the tree canopy, thus creating further cost to our city in order to meet our tree canopy goals!

The City of Vaughan has demonstrated its commitment to existing and future generations by recognizing the value that trees contribute to a better quality of life through the approval of tree protection policies and tree expansion initiatives, such as Planting Our Future: A 5-Year Plan to Expand the Urban Forest and Green Directions Vaughan. **We are urging you to continue to remain dedicated to these goals and vote AGAINST the exemption from permit requirements for golf courses and nurseries.** We also ask that you consider public engagements to determine the impact of maintaining the existing exemption and not just that of the stakeholders.

Kind Regards,

*Lucia Pulciani*

Member of The Friends of Keep Vaughan Green



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead*



Item:



## Committee of the Whole Report

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**DATE:** Wednesday, April 04, 2018

**WARD(S):** ALL

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

**FROM:**

Mary Reali, Deputy City Manager, Community Services

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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#### **Purpose**

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## **Recommendations**

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Carol Ramchuram, Regulatory Policy Analyst, ext. 8783