



Trees Conservation Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Time: 5:05 p.m.

Place: County of Brant Council Chambers, 7 Broadway Street West, Paris

Present: Mayor Eddy, Councillors Miller and Schmitt

Regrets: Councillor Coleman

Staff: Thompson, Bishop and Crozier

Councillor Schmitt in the Chair.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by – Mayor Eddy

Seconded by – Councillor Miller

That the Trees Conservation Committee agenda for March 4, 2014 be approved.

Carried

Delegations / Petitions / Presentations

Jessica Robbins, Forestry Specialist, Grand River Conservation Authority re: Brant Millennium Grow Green Program (MGGP)

J. Robbins provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the administration of the budget provided for the County share of the Millennium Grow Green program. She explained that for the MGGP, landowners receive a grant equivalent to 50% of the pre-tax total of trees orders, noting that approximately \$7000 has already been allocated for 2014. Land owners can order trees online, and the trees can either be planted by the owners, or by the GRCA. She noted that Brant Rural Water Quality Program has planted approximately 70,000 trees in the past five years. As well, she further explained that the GRCA, along with several partners, will be planting a variety of trees and shrubs at Paris Lions Park in April.

Discussion was held on the potential to plant “Living Snow Fences” along County roadways. J. Robbins explained that for “Living Snow Fences” trees are typically planted approximately 30m away from the roadway, and are provided at no cost to the landowners in targeted areas, and at a 50%-75% grant in untargeted areas depending upon the impact. She further noted that

landowners are provided with a performance incentive for the land that is lost. Further discussion was held on the County becoming proactive leaders in planting trees.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by – Mayor Eddy
Seconded by – Councillor Miller

That the Trees Conservation Committee minutes of September 18, 2013 be approved.

Carried

Business Arising From the Minutes

In response to a question regarding Minor Exception Application 1-13, Clayton Thompson, County Forestry Officer, noted that neither he nor other County staff have heard from the applicant, and in his observation of the property from the roadway, he has not noticed any significant difference.

TREE-14-01 – Application for Minor Exception 14-01 (Goor, Seventh Concession Road)

Clayton Thompson, Forestry Officer, reviewed his observations from his visit to the subject site, noting the following:

- The area is as indicated on the form submitted, 4 corner stakes and trees to be cut and cleared are marked as stated.
- Area is fully stocked at present and shows no sign of man-made disturbance.
- Area is transitional – a mix of lowland and upland species.
- Trees are healthy and exhibit fine form and vigour.
- Imperfectly drained flat terrain.
- Considered polewood.

Michael and Ashley Goor, Seventh Concession Road, Applicant

M. Goor indicated that it is their intention to begin construction on the proposed house once their current house is sold.

Members of the Public – None.

Committee Consideration

Moved by – Councillor Miller
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That application for Minor Exception 14-1 received from Michael and Ashley Goor, owners of lands described as Part Lot 20, Concession 7, County of Brant, in the geographic Township of Burford, located on Seventh Concession Road, to remove approximately 150 trees from the subject lands **be approved.**

Carried

Other Business

Woodlot Certification Program

Mayor Eddy noted that the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR) has discussed how individual municipalities have aided woodlot owners with the Woodlot Certification Program. Discussion focused on the misconceptions that have been raised by woodlot owners in the County regarding the certification program, and that more information would be required before Committee could determine any County involvement in the program.

Enhanced Committee Mandate

Moved by – Councillor Miller
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That staff bring forward a report to assist the Trees Conservation Committee move forward with its enhanced to mandate to promote and enhance the tree canopy in the County, including suggested tree planting projects and sources of funding.

Carried

Fence abutting County Woodlot (Oakhill Drive/Greens Road) and St. Theresa Elementary School

John Bishop, Syl Apps Facility Supervisor, presented information regarding a request from representatives of St. Theresa Elementary School to repair the fence that borders the school and a County owned woodlot located along Oakhill Drive and Greens Road. The request further indicated that the fence is located on County owned property. He provided a report from the Burford Parks and Facilities Supervisor who noted that the fence appears to be situated on the school's property, but confirmed that the fence is in a state of disrepair. C. Thompson noted that the woodlot is also in poor shape, and that the fence line is sprayed to control an overgrowth of poison ivy. He further noted that fence viewers could be employed to determine the owner of the fence. Committee discussion focused on determining the owner of the fence in order to appropriately address any County involvement that may be necessary.

Moved by – Councillor Miller
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That the matter regarding the fence abutting the County Woodlot located along Oakhill Drive and Greens Road, and St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School be referred to the Legal & Property Services Division to determine the legal owner of the fence in order to determine the extent of County involvement in matter.

Carried

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Secretary