

62 Minnacote Avenue – Application to Remove Two Private Trees

Date:	April 24, 2012
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 44 – Scarborough East
Reference Number:	P:\2012\Cluster A\PFR\SC16-051512-AFS#15678

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove two (2) privately-owned trees. The owners have indicated they are no longer able to incur the labour and costs associated with maintaining both trees.

The subject trees are a 55 cm diameter white spruce (*Picea glauca*) located at the front of the property and a 44 cm diameter honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) in the backyard. Both trees are in fair to good condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request to remove two (2) privately-owned trees at 62 Minnacote Avenue.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 62 Minnacote Avenue for a permit to remove two (2) privately-owned trees located on the subject property. The tree at the front of the property is a 55 cm diameter white spruce, located approximately 5 m from the house foundation. The second tree is a 44 cm diameter honey locust, located in the backyard approximately 3.5 m from an existing solarium. The honey locust tree is of concern to the owners due to issues of maintenance of the solarium which was built close

to the tree. The property owners indicate they are no longer able to incur the labour and costs associated with maintaining the trees.

Inspection of the trees by staff revealed that both trees are in fair to good condition. The spruce was previously pruned to remove lower branches away from the house. Both trees are structurally sound with no dieback. Staff observed no evidence that either tree is hazardous.

The arborist report which was submitted by an independent arborist with the application to remove the trees stated that the trees in question are in good condition.

The property has several trees and the owners have submitted a replanting plan indicating their willingness to plant two replacement trees should approval be granted to remove the subject trees.

As required under *Section 813-17, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a 'Notice' of application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14 day posting period in order to notify the community of the application and provide an opportunity for objection. One letter of objection was received in response to this application to remove the two trees in question.

Issuance of a permit to remove the trees was refused, as Urban Forestry does not support removal of healthy trees for the stated reasons. The owner has appealed the decision to refuse a permit for removal of the 55 cm diameter white spruce and the 44 cm diameter honey locust.

These trees are significant and a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. With proper care and maintenance, the subject trees should continue to provide benefits to the property owner and the surrounding community for many years to come. Urban Forestry cannot support removal of these trees.

CONTACT

Michael McClellan, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry Branch, Tel: 416 396-5131, Fax: 416 396-4248 Email: mmccllel@toronto.ca

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments No. 1 and 2 – Photos of the trees
Attachment 3 – Letter of objection



55 cm diameter white spruce



44 cm diameter honey locust

**James Mohlmann - Opposition to destruction of trees at 62 Minnacote Avenue, Scarborough.
Attn: James Mohlman?**

From:
To: "tppreast@toronto.ca" <tppreast@toronto.ca>
Date: 30/11/2011 10:51 PM
Subject: Opposition to destruction of trees at 62 Minnacote Avenue, Scarborough. Attn: James Mohlman?

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to the removal/destruction of the white spruce and honey locust tree on the private property of 62 Minnacote Avenue. Healthy trees that are of no danger to the public should not be destroyed. Even though trees may be on private property, their size often makes them part of the community. I admire this white spruce every time I walk by it. It is a part of my community and I care about it.

Trees make life more pleasant. They beautify and sustain our world. They moderate climate, improve air quality, conserve water, and harbour wildlife. White spruce trees provide nesting sites and shelter for birds, and their cones, needles and seeds can provide food for different types of wildlife. Honey locust trees also attract wildlife and I believe are rare. They have a high tolerance for pollution, salt, drought, and flooding, so are great for urban environments.

Please don't allow these trees to be destroyed! I, along with many others, will be heartbroken. If all residents were allowed to destroy trees on private property our environment would suffer, negative effects would be seen within ecosystems, and the human spirit would be weakened.

Please send me confirmation that this response has been received. If you need more details (or need me to fax a signed copy), please let me know.

Sincerely,

P.S. If possible, I would not like my name and contact information shared with the public.