

Application to Remove Five Private Trees – 801 King Street West

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 10 – Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove five privately owned trees located at 801 King Street West. The application indicates the reason for removal is to replant with alternative tree species.

The five subject trees are Norway maples measuring 33, 34, 34, 34, and 31 cm in diameter. The Private Tree By-law does not support the removal of these trees as they are healthy and maintainable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove five privately owned trees located at 801 King Street West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history regarding this tree removal permit application.

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application for a permit to remove five privately owned trees located in the rear yard of the property located at 801 King Street West. The subject trees are Norway maples measuring 33, 34, 34, 34, and 31 cm in diameter. The request to remove these trees has been made because the property owner would like to replant the site with a different tree species.

The arborist report which accompanied the application describes all five of the trees to be in fair condition due to minor defects ranging from buried root flares and frost cracks to asymmetrical canopies. Other minor defects noted were small amounts of deadwood present, powdery mildew and sparse canopy. Urban Forestry staff inspected all the trees and at the time of inspection, determined that all five trees are healthy both structurally and botanically. The defects noted by the arborist are common for this species. Urban Forestry staff recommends aerating around the base of each tree to improve root health and to alleviate compaction. The other defects can be addressed through pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices.

When reviewing applications for tree removal, Urban Forestry staff are guided by City policies and by-laws including the *City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Article III*, more commonly referred to as the Private Tree By-law. The Private Tree By-law does not have a mechanism that would allow the removal of the subject trees based on the concerns stated in the tree removal permit application.

As required under *Section 813-19, 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 period in order to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. Twenty six objections were received from the community.

A permit to remove the trees was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision. Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-20 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, permit issuance must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant five replacement trees. However, in this instance it would be appropriate for the applicant to provide twenty-five replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They help to soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be attributed to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater runoff thereby reducing soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to

moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees mitigate the cooling effects of wind in winter. Trees are a community resource which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's tree canopy to 40 per cent. The loss of trees in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, compounded with additional tree loss due to the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), and the emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*), make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The five Norway maple trees at 801 King Street West are a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance these trees have the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. In accordance with the City Council-approved Strategic Forest Management Plan, Toronto's Official Plan and the Tree/Ravine By-law, these trees should not be removed.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photographs 1 and 2: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #2 Norway maple measuring 33 cm in diameter.

Attachment 2 – Photographs 3 and 4: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #3 Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Attachment 3 – Photograph 5: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #4 Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Attachment 4 – Photographs 6 and 7: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #5 Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Attachment 5 – Photographs 8 and 9: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photograph of Tree #8 (left) Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Attachment 1 – Photographs 1 and 2: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #2 Norway maple measuring 33 cm in diameter.

Photos 1 and 2 – Tree #2.



Attachment 2 – Photographs 3 and 4: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #3 Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Photos 3 and 4 – Tree #3



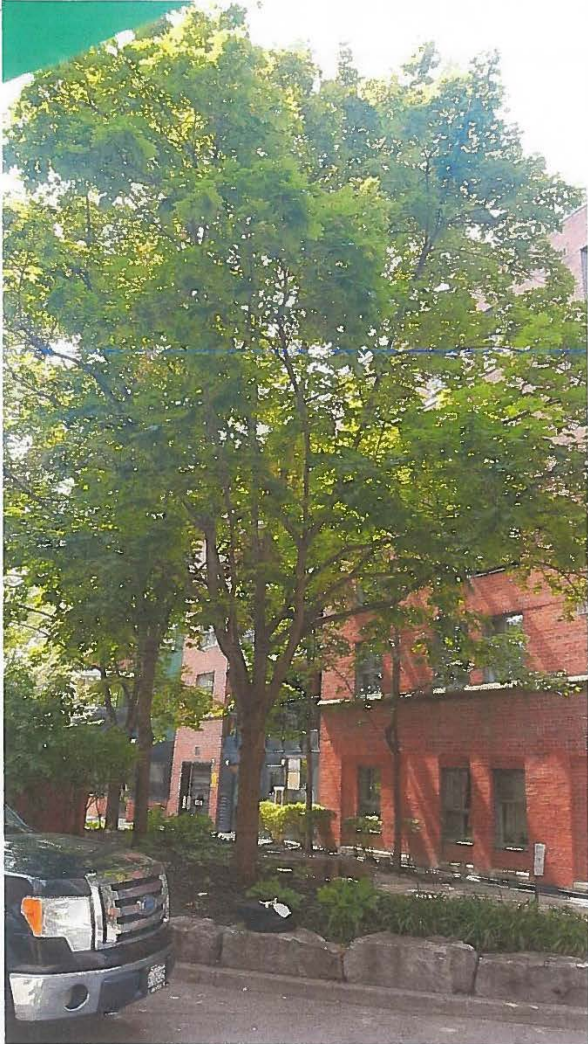
Attachment 3 – Photograph 5: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #4 Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Photo 5 – Tree #4



Attachment 4 – Photographs 6 and 7: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photographs of Tree #5 Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter.

Photos 6 and 7 – Tree #5



Attachment 5 – Photograph 8: July 23, 2019 Central Tree Care arborist report photograph of Tree #8 (left) Norway maple measuring 34 cm in diameter

