45 Taunton Road – Application to Remove a Private Tree

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>May 24, 2013</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation</td>
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<td>Ward:</td>
<td>Ward 22 – St. Paul's</td>
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<td>Reference Number:</td>
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**SUMMARY**

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located in the front yard of 45 Taunton Road. The owners have indicated they want the tree removed as they feel it is too close to the house and has outgrown its location.

The subject tree is a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), measuring 57 cm in diameter. The tree is currently in good condition botanically and good to fair condition structurally. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the privately owned Norway spruce tree at 45 Taunton Road.

**Financial Impact**

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

**COMMENTS**

An application was received for a permit to remove a 57 cm diameter privately owned Norway spruce tree located in the front yard of the property. The reason for the removal
stated on the application form is the tree is "too close to the house and has outgrown its location".

Urban Forestry staff have inspected the tree and found that it is currently in good condition botanically and good to fair condition structurally. There are branches touching the roof; however, pruning the tree to provide clearance from the house is an appropriate alternative to tree removal. A permit is not required if the tree is pruned using proper arboricultural practices. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

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 objection by the community. No letters of objection were received.

On April 11, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

As a condition of permit issuance, the property owner is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree on the property. 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, approval must be conditional upon the owner providing satisfactory replacement planting. In this instance, it would be appropriate to require the applicant to provide four (4) replacement trees.

The Norway spruce tree at 45 Taunton Road is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance it has the potential to provide the community with benefits for years to come. Urban Forestry therefore cannot support removal of this tree.

CONTACT
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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENT
Attachment 1 and 2 – Photos of the 57 cm diameter Norway spruce tree in the front yard of 45 Taunton Road.