TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

57 Boon Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	July 17, 2014
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 17 – Davenport
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\EY35-081214-AFS#19738

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located in the rear yard of 57 Boon Avenue. The applicant is requesting tree removal due to the tree being too close to the neighbour's garage and creating parking issues.

The subject tree is a silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) measuring 46 cm in diameter. The tree is healthy and in good condition. 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 silver maple tree at 57 Boon Avenue.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from the property owner for the removal of a 46 cm diameter silver maple tree located in the rear yard of 57 Boon Avenue. The owner is requesting tree removal as they feel the tree is too close to the neighbour's garage and is creating parking issues.

The tree was inspected by staff and found to be healthy, in good condition and well maintained. There is no evidence of the tree causing structural damage to the garage.

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. No comments were received.

A permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

The Private Tree By-law was enacted by Council with the goal of preserving the urban forest canopy. The retention of mature trees, where possible, is an essential aspect of achieving this goal. In accordance with the intent of this by-law the removal of this tree is not warranted.

Trees are essential to improving air quality: they are a constant source of oxygen and filter harmful pollutants from the air we breathe. The direct benefits derived from improving the health of our urban forest helps to improve the lives of its citizens, especially those suffering from allergies and other respiratory disorders such as asthma.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rain water 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.

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. The owner has proposed providing cash-in-lieu for the planting of one (1) tree. In this instance, it is appropriate for the applicant to provide three (3) trees as replacement, which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting.

The silver maple tree at 57 Boon Avenue is a mature specimen of a native tree providing many benefits to the community, and can continue to do so for many years. Urban Forestry therefore, does not support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 and 2 – photos of the 46 cm diameter silver maple at the rear of 57 Boon Avenue

Attachment 1

46 cm diameter silver maple tree at the rear of 57 Boon Avenue



Attachment 2

46 cm diameter silver maple tree at 57 Boon Avenue

