

PE8.5.8



December 4th, 2015.

To Parks and Environment Committee

Chair Michelle Berardinetti,

Cllrs. Maria Augimeri, Joe Cressy, Sarah Doucette, Mike Layton, Gord Perks and David Shiner

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council

Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West,

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Atten: Ms. Marilyn Toft, Manager Council Secretariat Support

Email: clerk@toronto.ca Fax: 416.392.2980

PE8.5: RevisionstotheTreeBy-lawsheardonNovember23rd, 2015 by Parks and Environment Reference

No. P:\20156\Cluster A\PFR08-112315-AFS#20848

Advancing to Council with Bills attached on December 9, 2015.

Bayview Village Association in North York (BVA) is asking that the Report be sent back to the Parks and Recreation Committee given the substantive changes being proposed, and in particular, the exclusion of councillors and the public in regard to "as of right" applications to remove trees.

BVA, therefore, recommends:

That agenda item PE8.5 Revisions to the Tree By-laws, Reference No. P:\20156\Cluster A\PFR08-112315-FS#20848, be referred back to the Parks and Environment Committee as a deputation item to be held after notice has been given to all affected persons including resident and ratepayer groups, tree preservation groups, environmental groups and naturalist groups.

Reasons:

The penultimate thrust of the report is to reduce notice in "as of right" applications without adequately defining the same.

The request for delegation on page 6 of the report without allowing for a bump up by a Councillor is unacceptable. Basically, the recommendation neuters Councillors, leaving them to deal with complaints, only after the public becomes aware that a mature tree is approved for removal with one day's notice to the public advising of the approval.

Presently reducing the notice period from 14 days to 0 days, is a substantive shift in the process. Such a shift should not occur without notice to the public that such a change is being contemplated.

The reality is that the BVA notes the inadequacy of the process, arborist reports, and the broad definition of "as of right" as problematic.

As a direct response to the ice storm in December of 2013, a Staff Report Action Required was submitted by the City Manager to All Wards of City Council on January 8, 2014
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-65676.pdf>.

Within the report it is stated on numerous occasions that action is required to rehabilitate and increase the tree canopy in Toronto as trees play an important role in regards to the environment and climate change. Allowing the proposed changes to the By-Laws in question would not only contradict the Official Plan, but also interfere with the current world plan to decrease global warming and address climate change. As a city, province and country, it is our responsibility on all levels to support methods that impact climate change in a positive way.

It is the BVA's position that trees play an important environmental role and are critical to the character of many areas. This is also recognized in the Official Plan. This proposal conflicts with the drive to ensure the tree canopy is maintained. In addition, according to an article in the Globe and Mail, a pledge was made to increase the urban canopy from 28 per cent, to 40 per cent by 2057, (click the following to read the full article) [meaning that 570,000 trees need to be planted, per year.](#)

Plus, according to the website of the City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=9b24e6bef26df410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnnextchannel=9aad60d066169410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&applInstanceName=default> the Tree Planting Strategy states the development of the strategy will involve consultation with residents, internal and external stakeholders and community partners through an [online survey](#) or by attending public meetings that were held in November of 2015. The proposed change to the tree by-laws conflicts with this as it impedes the process of consultation with residents, external stakeholders and community partners.

Bayview Village has been negatively impacted to date by the loss of trees because of the ice storm, natural damage due to age and infection, and the needless removal of trees by developers. Once lost, trees are not easily replicated, evidence of this remains throughout Bayview Village and the rest of Toronto.

As responsible residents, we should be supporting legislation that protects and rehabilitates the tree canopy in Toronto, which means leaving some of the decisions and power within the hands of the public, as that is whom trees directly impact.

Please advise the BVA of Council's decision.
Yours truly,

AMC McDonald

Monty McDonald, P. Eng
Bayview Village Association, Environmental Committee Chair
bva@bayviewvillage.org

Direct email: [REDACTED]