TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Application to Remove a Private Tree - 318 Lytton Boulevard

Date:	August 16, 2016
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 16 – Eglinton-Lawrence
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\NY16-090716-AFS#23395

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 318 Lytton Boulevard. The application indicates the reason for removal is to address safety concerns regarding tree defects identified in an arborist report that accompanied the application. The arborist report indicates it is not possible to make the tree safe by pruning.

The subject tree is a black walnut (*Juglans nigra)* measuring 89 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is 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 one (1) privately-owned tree located at 318 Lytton Boulevard.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) privately-owned tree situated in the rear yard of 318 Lytton Boulevard. The subject tree is a black walnut measuring 89 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address tree defects identified as a safety concern in the arborist report included with the application. The arborist report claims safety concerns cannot be addressed by pruning the tree. The arborist report describes the tree as showing evidence of lightning damage observed in the form of a 60-foot crack on a large leader with an exit point at the main branch union. The report further identified the existence of other frost cracks, girdling roots and dieback.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined it is healthy and maintainable. Prominent seams extending from the base of the tree to the west leader and a secondary limb were observed but did not appear to penetrate into the heartwood of the tree. These seams, in addition to frost cracks on secondary branches and minor dieback observed, can be addressed through routine care and maintenance. The seams can be monitored for continued signs of advancement or decay. Frost cracks on secondary branches and minor dieback observed can also be monitored and pruned if necessary. No evidence of girdling roots were observed. If the condition of the tree changes, the applicant can submit a new 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. No comments were received in response to the posting.

A permit to remove the tree 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 approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) 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. Trees are aesthetically pleasing and 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. Trees 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 percent. 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 and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The black walnut tree at 318 Lytton Boulevard is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. Urban Forestry; therefore, does not support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

Tara Bobie, Supervisor, Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry
Tel: 416-395-6134, Fax: 416-395-6714, Email: tbobie@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

_____

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the subject tree in the rear yard of 318 Lytton
Attachment 2 – Photograph of tree base