

Renaming of Woodsy Park Lane

Date: August 9, 2019

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Wards: 17 Don Valley North

SUMMARY

At its meeting of July 16, 2019, City Council adopted Item MM9.34 directing the Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services, in consultation the Manager, Indigenous Affairs Office, to investigate the feasibility of renaming Woodsy Park Lane to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane and report back to the North York Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Street Naming Policy.

The proposed name "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane" complies with the Policy, however, renaming of streets is addressed in section 3.4 of the Street Naming Policy which states:

"3.4 Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a ceremonial name within the previous ten years will not be renamed."

Because the original naming of this street occurred in 2014, a renaming at this time is not in compliance with the Street Naming Policy. Therefore, this report recommends that the renaming be rejected.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the Street Naming Policy. As this renaming is not in compliance with the Street Naming Policy, North York Community Council does not have delegated authority to approve a renaming within the previous 10 years. Any renaming of this street at this time would require the consideration and approval of City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Reject the renaming of "Woodsy Park Lane".

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to adopting the recommendation contained in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 16, 2019, City Council adopted Item MM9.34 which stated:

"City Council:

- 1. Directed the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Manager, Indigenous Affairs Office, to investigate the feasibility of renaming Woodsy Park located at 80 McMahon Drive to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park and report back to the North York Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Property Naming Policy.*
- 2. Waive Section 3.3.5 of the Property Policy which says City properties that have been named or renamed in the previous ten years will not be renamed.*
- 3. Directed the Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services, in consultation the Manager, Indigenous Affairs Office, to investigate the feasibility of renaming Woodsy Park Lane to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane and report back to the North York Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Street Naming Policy.*
- 4. Express its support for the renaming of "Woodsy Park Lane", extending between Sheppard Avenue East and McMahon Drive, to "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane".*

[MM9.34](#)

COMMENTS

An application was received on August 9, 2019 from Councillor Carroll, on behalf of Toronto City Council to rename "Woodsy Park Lane" as "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane" to promote visibility of the diverse and vibrant indigenous communities in the City of Toronto. A significant Wendat archaeological site, the Moatfield Site, is only 500-800 metres from this park and adjacent street. Wendat place names typically reflect the geological features of the landscape or document events that occurred there.

The name "Woodsy Park Lane" was approved by North York Community Council upon adoption of Item NY34.118 on August 12, 2014.

On July 16, 2019 City Council, by way of adoption of Item MM9.34, requested that Engineering and Construction Services, in consultation the Manager, Indigenous Affairs Office, to investigate the feasibility of renaming Woodsy Park Lane to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane and report back to the North York Community Council

with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Street Naming Policy. This report summarises the results of the feasibility study and responds to this request.

The following information was prepared and submitted by the Indigenous Affairs Office:

"Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane":

*"The information provided indicates that the Moatfield Site, a Wendat archaeological site, is only 500-800 metres from the new park. Wendat place names typically reflect the geological features of the landscape or document the events that have occurred there, so I wanted to make sure that this place name also followed this pattern. Since it was so close to the Moatfield site, I did some research (with the help of the Office of the Nionwentsio, the branch of the band council that deals with everything land-related) about the site. A chapter in the book *Bones of the Ancestors: The Archaeology and Osteobiography of the Moatfield Ossuary* by Williamson & Pfeiffer was very helpful in gaining an understanding about this site.*

*One of the striking things about this site was the presence of many people who lived over the age of 50, which was not the case at many other sites. The researchers were also able to conclude that the inhabitants lived in relatively good health. They also found that there was less violence and warfare at Moatfield as compared to that in later sites. It was these findings that led me to come up with this name: *Ethennonnhawahstihnen'* 'where they had a good, beautiful life' (« là où ils ont eu de belles vies »).*

Pronunciation:

Ethennonnhawahstihnen'
[et-hen-nonn-ha-wah-stih-nen']

The apostrophe represents a consonant in the Wendat language (a glottal stop) and must form part of the name.

The name "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane" was circulated for comment. Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services and Toronto Police Services have concerns regarding the pronunciation, phonetics, and spelling of the proposed name. Councillor Carroll supports the proposed name.

The First Responders have been in conversations with the local Councillor's office and Transportation Services to come up with suggestions/solutions to address response time concerns surrounding the pronunciation, phonetics, and spelling of the proposed name and are jointly working towards strategies to mitigate these concerns, such as a public education piece, use of markers throughout the park, special signage consideration and the use of QR codes on the signage.

A Community support letter from the owner whose properties abut "Woodsy Park Lane", was provided by the applicant.

The Councillor's office advises that responses from the local community were 80% positive. 20% were not in favour because of the pronunciation and spelling. There were 200 responses received.

The proposed name "Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane" complies with the Street Naming Policy, however, a renaming at this time would not be in compliance with the Street Naming Policy because of section 3.4 which states:

"3.4 Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a ceremonial name within the previous ten years will not be renamed."

Due to non-compliance with section 3.4 of the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy, it is recommended that the renaming be rejected.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the Street Naming Policy. As this renaming is not in compliance with the Street Naming Policy, North York Community Council does not have delegated authority to approve a renaming within the previous 10 years. Any renaming of this street at this time would require the consideration and approval of City Council.

[Street Naming Policy](#)

The street is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-096.

CONTACT

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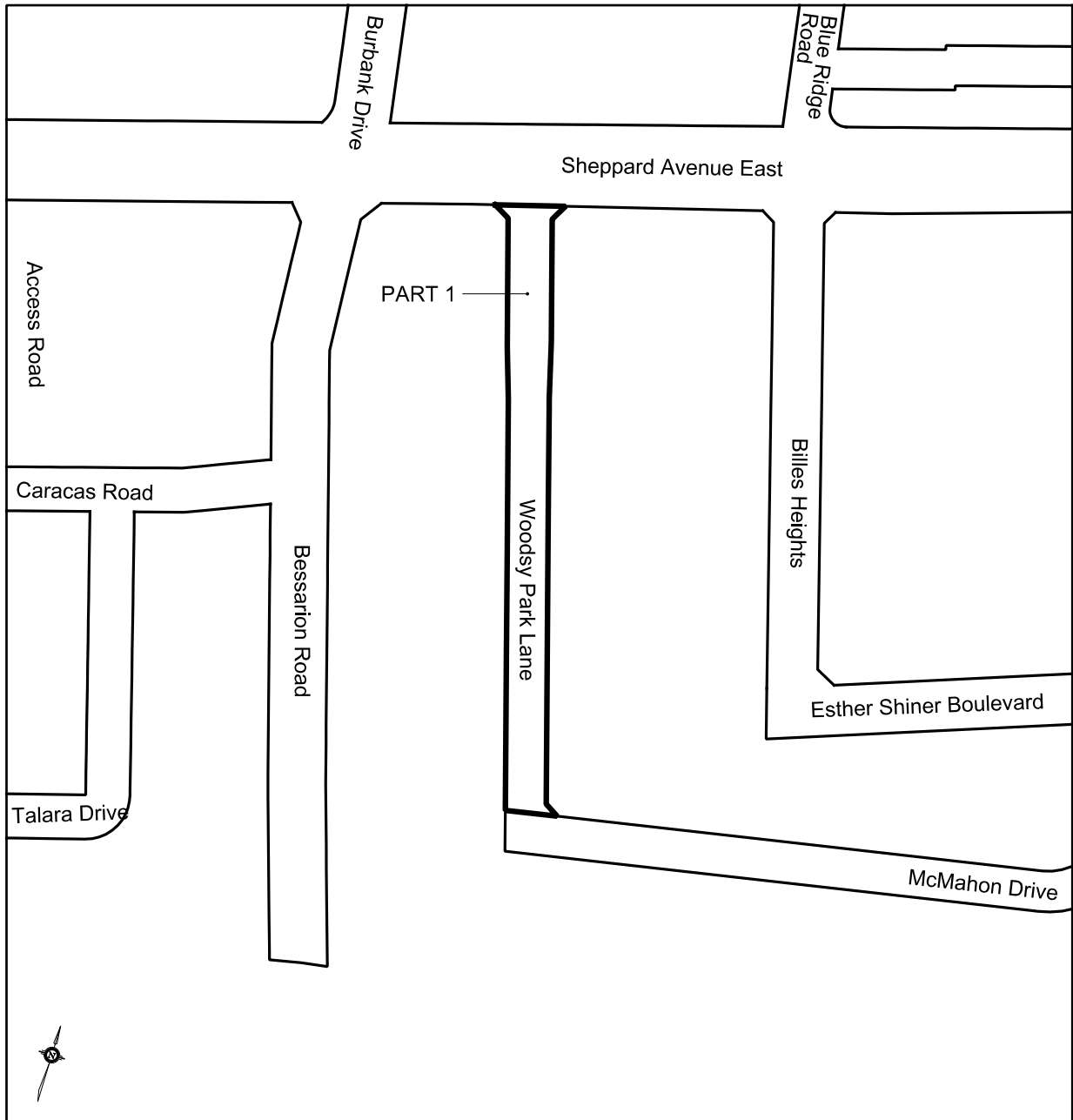
SIGNATURE

Mika Raisanen, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-096

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-096, showing the location of Woodsy Park Lane extending between Sheppard Avenue East and McMahon Drive



PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET
RENAMING OF WOODSY PARK LANE

NOTE:
THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN
COMPILED FROM OFFICE
RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS
ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 17 - DON VALLEY NORTH
DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 2019

SKETCH No. PS-2019-096