

Naming of a Proposed Private Lane at 36 - 40 Churchill Avenue

Date: May 29, 2022

To: North York Community Council

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

Wards: Ward 18 - Willowdale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Flax Field Lane" be approved to identify a proposed private lane located at 36 - 40 Churchill Avenue.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy which can be found at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/street-naming/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Flax Field Lane" to identify a proposed private lane located at 36 - 40 Churchill Avenue.
2. Request the applicant pay the costs, estimated to be \$300.00, for the fabrication and installation of the street name signage; and
3. Request the owner and successors of the subject lands to maintain, at their own risk, the street name signage installed under Recommendation 1 of the report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications to the City resulting from the adoption of this report. The estimated cost of \$300.00 for the street name signage is to be paid by the applicant.

DECISION HISTORY

This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council.

COMMENTS

An application was received on May 18, 2021, from a developer requesting to name a proposed private lane located at 36 - 40 Churchill Avenue as, "Flax Field Lane" nodding to the early settler of Willow Dale, William Wallace who farmed Flax on the site.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

"Flax Field Lane"

William Wallace was an early settler of Willow Dale who in 1871 purchased the 105 acres of the north half of Lot 18, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street except for the southeast corner. The land stretched from Yonge Street to present-day Bathurst Street. In 1881, he further purchased 2¼ acres of the north half of Lot 18, Concession 1 West.

William Wallace was one of the farmers selected by the Ontario government during World War 1 to try growing flax, which was used to make linen to cover WW1 airplane wings. Originally, the flax came from Northern France and Belgium, but when the Germans captured those countries, those sources of flax were not available. Canada was asked to experimentally grow flax, and produced good-quality crops.

A flax festival was held at harvest time in the fields behind the Wallace family home for an entire week in August 1918, as a fundraiser for the Red Cross. There were different activities every day, with the highlight being an aviation show. Land Army women were brought in to help harvest the flax.

William Wallace provided 0.52 acres of land for the site of the two-storey brick schoolhouse, Willowdale School S.S. (School Section) No. 4, built in 1875 to replace the first brick schoolhouse in the local area, which had been built in 1842, north of the second school. Subsequently, in 1892, a large two-storey brick schoolhouse with a belfry was built on the site of the first brick schoolhouse to replace the one on William Wallace's land. It provided barracks for the Land Army women who harvested the flax on William Wallace's land.

City Council has previously directed that no new applications to name or rename streets or other civic properties received after October 1, 2020, be considered while a review of the City's commemorative policies and programs is underway. An exception was made that allows proceeding with naming's of a small number streets, such as in development sites that require new street names ahead of the next report to Council in Q2 of 2022 so as to avoid any delays in the development approvals process. This application falls under that exception and as such it is exempt from the moratorium.

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

Councillor John Fillion, Ward 18 - Willowdale, supports this naming.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. **PS-2022-027**

CONTACT

Tony Rodrigues, Manager, Land and Property Surveys, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, Telephone: 416 396-7140, Email: Tony.F.Rodrigues@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Avi Bachar, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. **PS-2022-027**

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. **PS-2022-027**

Showing the location of a proposed private lane located north of Churchill Avenue and east of Basswood Road.

