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Date: September 11, 2019
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Shaun Martinho, Manager of Public Works
RE: Update to Tree Removal Policy
Report No.: MS 2019- 42

AIM

To provide Council with information regarding tree removal in the Town of Kingsville and outline strategies for improving our current policies and procedures.

BACKGROUND

At the August 12 Regular Meeting of Council the following motion was made:

428-2019

Moved By Councillor Laura Lucier

Seconded By Councillor Kimberly DeYong

That Administration be directed to provide a review and update Report with respect to Town of Kingsville By-law 71-2014, being a by-law to prohibit the injury or destruction of trees on public property, with a view to including a provision that the removal of trees as a result of any Public Works project be identified and brought to Council for approval.

DISCUSSION

The Municipal Services Department recognizes that trees are a valuable asset in the community. However, on occasion, trees need to be removed to facilitate development, maintain public safety, and preserve the aesthetics of the Town. Administration takes a proactive approach to ensure that the tree canopy in Kingsville is not significantly altered. This includes:

- A robust tree-planting program with more than two trees planted for every tree removed.

- Retaining an ISA certified arborist to assess the risk of failure of large, old, landmark trees before they are removed.
- Utilizing an On-Call Tree Service Contractor that has over 25 years of experience working in the community and considers tree protection and preservation before all removals.

During the capital planning process every effort is made to identify potential impacts to natural vegetation and landscapes. However, due to the dynamic nature of capital projects, change is very common and can occur at any stage during construction. This can lead to the unanticipated removal of trees during the construction process. If change orders are not addressed in a timely fashion they can result in increases in schedules, materials, labor, and overtime. Municipal Services needs the flexibility to make decisions so we do not incur additional costs due to project delay.

The purpose of *By-law 71-2014 A by-law to prohibit the injury or destruction of trees on public property* is to provide administration with a means of enforcement should an individual cause damage or remove a tree located on Town property (See Appendix A). In addition to this by-law, the Town of Kingsville has a Tree Removal Policy that was last amended on July 28, 2014 (See Appendix B). The Municipal Services Department intends to update this policy to include the following:

- A communication process for the removal of trees due to capital works.
- Tree Protection Plans for construction projects and developments.
- Compensatory works and tree plantings.
- A list of approved tree species.
- Tree assessment and removal procedures.

It would be our intention to bring this policy forward for approval before the 2020 capital season.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No financial considerations

CONSULTATIONS

Municipal Services Department

RECOMMENDATION

The Council receive information regarding the Towns current Tree Removal Policy and that the policy be amended to include a communication procedure for the removal of trees as a result of municipal projects.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shaun Martinho

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Peggy Van Mierlo-West

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