

REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: S. Jones, Clerk & Director of Legislative Services

DATE: February 6, 2019

REPORT NO.: ADMIN-2019-0007

RE: Boulevard Parking Matters

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report ADMIN-2019-0007, dated February 6, 2019 regarding Boulevard Parking Matters, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Motion passed by Council on January 14, 2019 to allow Boulevard parking within the Town of Halton Hills continue to remain in effect with the following amendment;

THAT Fire Hydrants and Above Ground Utilities shall be readily available and unobstructed for use at all times.

AND FURTHER THAT staff update the Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-01 to include boulevard parking and other proposed parking related provisions as part of the other regular amendments;

AND FURTHER THAT staff conduct a detailed review of the existing uniform Traffic Control By-84-1 as amended and provide a new and consolidated Uniform Traffic Control By-law for Council's endorsement which was approved as part of the 2019 Capital Budget.

BACKGROUND:

Upon commencement of the Town's Winter Control Parking Ban, Enforcement staff received numerous complaints from residents on the amount of vehicles being parked on residential boulevards. Particularly the complainants spoke to vehicles hanging over sidewalks and roadways. Through those complaints Parking Control Officers were directed to respond to streets associated with complaints.

Subsequently the Town Clerk and Supervisor of Enforcement were interviewed by the Independent and Free Press regarding boulevard parking restrictions, which led to many residents contacting the Mayor and their respective Member of Council, asking that the rules surrounding boulevard parking be changed in order to allow boulevard parking. On January 14th, at a special meeting of Council, staff presented a motion to Council which outlined a temporary allowance for boulevard parking based on specific criteria. The temporary measure has been put in place to provide time for staff to prepare a more informed recommendation, and additionally, any proposed amendments to the Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-1.

The motion passed by Council on January 14, 2019 is as follows;

THAT enforcement staff be directed to allow boulevard parking where the vehicle is;

- **Parked and fully encompassed on the paved portion of the boulevard with all tires fully on the hard surface**
- **Fully parked on the hard surface between the sidewalk and curb/road edge**
- **Facing the direction of traffic if parked parallel to the road**
- **Parked within the boundaries of the home's projected property line.**

AND FURTHER THAT enforcement staff continue to enforce boulevard parking infractions where;

- **Vehicles are parked on the landscaped portion of the boulevard or access the paved portion of the boulevard by driving over the landscaped portions of the boulevard**
- **Any portion of the vehicle is hanging over the sidewalk or curb/road edge**
- **Vehicles interfere with snow plowing efforts**
- **Vehicles are parked less than 30 metres from an intersection.**

AND FURTHER THAT boulevard parking be allowed for single family, semi-attached homes and townhomes where driveways are facing a Town street;

AND FURTHER THAT this motion be in effect until such time as staff bring forward a report to Council with an informed recommendation, and any proposed amendments to the Uniform Traffic Control By-law, based on safety and well-being of residents.

COMMENTS:

Upon approval of the motion as noted above, Council members and staff have heard from a number of residents. Many are in favour of continuing to allow the boulevard parking, a few have noted that they are not in favour, and a minority of residents have noted that vehicles should be allowed to park on the grassy area of the boulevard as their vehicle will not fit within the confines of a shared driveway. Some mentioned that we do not have enough Parking Control officers monitoring the streets.

Staff has reviewed best practices of other municipalities who have introduced boulevard parking. The following outlines findings;

- Boulevard parking is allowed on the hard-scaped area of the boulevard only
- No part of the vehicle must overhang the sidewalk or roadway
- Boulevard parking allowed only during winter parking ban and/or allowed during winter parking ban, and from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. remainder of the year
- Offered through paid permit
- Allowed only in specific areas of the city/town, where posted

Enforcement and Transportation and Public Works staff met to review boulevard parking, noted best practices within other municipalities, and further reviewed what other measures are currently in place within various Halton Hills' neighbourhoods where parking was problematic. These measures include;

Posted 12 Hour Parking:

- Danville Avenue, Acton. Numerous townhomes/semis in the area
- Kingham Road, Acton. Mainly townhomes in the area
- Steward McLaren, Georgetown. Mainly townhomes (underground parking not fully utilized by residents)
- Sierra Crescent, Georgetown. Detached, semis and townhomes in the area
- Dominion Gardens Drive, Georgetown. Mainly townhomes

Twelve hour posted parking operates on a first come/first serve basis. These zones are exempted from winter prohibitions, however are not to interfere with snow plowing operations.

Posted 15 Hour Parking:

- Mountainview Road, Georgetown. Posted boulevard parking.

Posted 12 Hour Parking through Paid Permit (7 p.m. -7 a.m.):

- Dominion Gardens. Residents of Dominion Gardens may apply for paid permit parking within Dominion Gardens Park. Parking is signed reserved for permit holders from 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. There are fourteen spots available. Twenty-seven

residents are on the waitlist to receive a permit. Parking is for residential vehicles only – no commercial vehicles.

Municipal Parking Lots 12 Hour Parking through Paid Permit (7p.m. – 7a.m.)

- Willow Street South (Acton), Main Street North (Acton), Market Street (Georgetown), Draper Street (Georgetown), Wesleyan Street (Georgetown) and Back Street (Georgetown).

Comments re. Lack of Parking Control on Town Streets:

The Town has a contract with Ontario Parking Control (OPC), who are responsible for parking enforcement on Town streets. The contract is based solely on the number of hours OPC is utilized. There is not a per diem payment based on how many parking tickets are written.

During the winter parking ban (November – April) OPC is contracted for a total of 80 hours per week/320 hours for a month. During the remainder of the year OPC is contracted for 70 hours per week/280 hours per month. These hours are divided between various shifts. OPC is responsible for parking enforcement among all Town owned streets throughout Halton Hills. Currently there are 78 streets within town that are on the ‘complaint patrol list’ (streets where parking is continually problematic with a multitude of complaints received). Dependent on time of year the contract allows for one officer to be on duty per shift. During special events, where there is a need for extra enforcement, the contract allows for two officers.

The Town’s parking enforcement is ‘patrolled complaint based’, meaning when a complaint(s) is received for a specific area, that specific area will be patrolled and all offenders within the area will be ticketed for the said infraction. Officers must also ticket where there is a major safety hazard identified while on their route.

Attached to this report is correspondence forwarded by Council members to staff, which provide comments by residents regarding boulevard parking.

Comments re. Parking Exemptions:

The Town has a parking exemption program in place where on-street parking is allowed for up to six occasions (per vehicle) per year for a maximum of 4 days per exemption. This provides a maximum of 24 days where on-street overnight parking per vehicle is allowed. The exemption does become null and void where the parking can interfere with snow removal operations. The exemption can be completed on-line, and day of the week, and immediately sends out a notification to the resident upon submission. Notification of the exemption is also directly sent to parking control staff. The notification notes the dates for which the exemption is valid for.

NEXT STEPS

Staff has taken into consideration comments received/forwarded to date, and are recommending that the Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-1 as amended be updated to include boulevard parking and any other proposed parking related provisions as part of the other regular amendments. It is anticipated that this regular update would be completed in the spring.

In addition, as part of the approved 2019 Capital budget, Transportation staff will be conducting a detail review of the existing Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-1 as amended and preparing a new and consolidated by-law which will include a fulsome review of all parking provisions within the Town's road allowance. This review will be initiated in the fall of 2019 and will ensure that all safety and liability concerns are clearly addressed.

Staff respect all comments received by Town's residents. Staff, when seeking changes to parking control, have to continue to be mindful of needs vs. wants; the intent of driveways and garages being 'parking spaces'; and, convenience vs. safety. Parking is an issue across many municipalities thus there is no easy one size fits all solution.

In the interim staff are recommending that the Motion passed on January 14, 2019 continue to be in effect, with one amendment, until Transportation staff have completed the new and consolidated Uniform Traffic Control By-law. With the proposed amendment the Motion reads as follows;

MOTION AS AMENDED:

THAT enforcement staff be directed to allow boulevard parking where the vehicle is;

- Parked on the paved portion of the boulevard with all tires fully on the hard surface
- Fully parked on the hard surface between the sidewalk and curb/road edge
- Facing the direction of traffic if parked parallel to the road
- Parked within the boundaries of the home's projected property line; and
 - ***Fire Hydrants and Above Ground Utilities are readily available and unobstructed for use at all times.***

AND FURTHER THAT enforcement staff continue to enforce boulevard parking infractions where;

- Vehicles are parked on the landscaped portion of the boulevard or access the paved portion of the boulevard by driving over the landscaped portions of the boulevard
- Any portion of the vehicle is hanging over the sidewalk or curb/road edge
- Vehicles interfere with snow plowing efforts
- Vehicles are parked less than 30 metres from an intersection.

AND FURTHER THAT boulevard parking be allowed for single family, semi-attached homes and townhomes where driveways are facing a Town street;

AND FURTHER THAT this motion be in effect until such time as staff update the Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-1 as amended to include Boulevard Parking and other parking provisions as part of the other regular amendments based on safety and well-being of residents.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report is administrative in nature and therefore there is not a direct relationship to the Town's Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Through the approved 2019 Capital Budget, transportation staff will be conducting a detail review of the existing Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-1 as amended and preparing new and consolidated by-law which will include a fulsome review of all parking provisions within the Town's road allowance.

CONSULTATION:

Clerks staff have consulted with other departments in preparing this report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

The public has been very engaged and have provided comments through social media, emails, and in-person at the Service Halton Hills counter. These comments have been taken into account during the preparation of this report and will be further taken into account upon the review of and proposed changes to the Town's Uniform Traffic Control By-law. In addition, through the Town's Let's Talk Halton Hills, any additional information will be provided.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

COMMUNICATIONS:

Upon the adoption of the motion to allow boulevard parking (January 14, 2019) a media release was prepared and the Town's website was updated to provide the public with the rules surrounding boulevard parking. Additionally, visuals were attached to show the proper way to park a vehicle on the boulevard.

Should Council approve the proposed amendment Staff will update the Town's website accordingly, and will work with Communication staff to prepare an enhanced Parking Pamphlet which will include visuals which provide a clearer understanding of the proper way to park a vehicle on the boulevard, different parking permission signage etc.

Public Notice will be provided when a subsequent report will be brought forward to Council.

CONCLUSION:

Staff are seeking Council's approval to continue with the allowance of boulevard parking through the amended motion. Transportation staff will be updating the Uniform Traffic Control By-law 84-1 as amended to include boulevard parking and other proposed parking related provisions as part of the other regular amendments in the spring. A new and consolidated Uniform Traffic Control By-law will be initiated in the fall of 2019 which will include a fulsome review of all parking provisions within the Town's road allowance. This will also ensure that all safety and liability issues are clearly addressed.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer