



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator

DATE: June 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM NO.: MEM-ADMIN-2020-0003

RE: Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy Summary Update

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

THAT this update of the Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy regarding the summary of the first-round of community engagement and Council's virtual workshop on May 4, 2020 be received.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2019, the Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy Terms of Reference (Report No. PLS 2019-0003) was approved by Council. Since this time, consultants Aboud and Associates, were hired to develop a made-in-Halton Hills Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy.

In the summer of 2019, public consultation began on the Strategy to gather feedback on the types of tools that could be used to manage trees on private lands in Halton Hills. In March 2020, a public open house/workshop was held. On May 4, 2020, a virtual engagement session was held for Town Council to update, inform, review and collect their choices of preferred tree management tools.

COMMENTS:

This memorandum is a summary of the virtual engagement session held for Council and includes the results from the public engagement sessions. The virtual engagement session with Council included a 20 minute presentation that summarized the community engagement to-date. Then all Councillors were asked to complete a Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy Survey on Let's Talk Halton Hills to identify and prioritize preferred tree management tools. Each of the education, incentive, and regulation management tool options in the Survey were generated entirely through community

engagement from the responses collected on the public survey on Let's Talk and the open house/workshop held on March 3, 2020, at Town Hall.

Results

Attached as Schedule 1 to this memorandum are graphs to summarize the results of the consultation with the public and Council's responses in the virtual engagement session.

Education Tools

The frequency of education-based management tools selected by Town Council and frequency of tools identified during community engagement are generally aligned. The only discrepancy is Town Council's preference to evaluate providing access to a Town arborist for consultation.

Incentive Tools

Results have shown a strong frequency of support for subsidized or free new tree incentive-based management tool by community engagement and Town Council. In addition, Town Council selected participation in tree planting/management programs tool most often. The remaining frequencies of incentive-based tools selected by Town Council were inverse to the frequency identified during community engagement.


Regulation Tools

The frequency of preferred regulation-based management tools selected by Town Council is spread evenly across potential tools identified during community engagement, without a strong indication of one preferred tool. Conspicuously absent from the collective preferred tools selected by Town Council are Tree Permits and Private Tree By-Law, the top two tools identified during community engagement. A draft Private Tree By-Law was to be one of the key outcomes defined in the terms of reference for the Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy. However, based on the results of this engagement session a By-Law will not be further evaluated. Tools to regulate trees without a By-Law will be investigated and identified to determine if this is a viable option. A potential choice could be to embed tree regulations into various existing Town permit requirements.

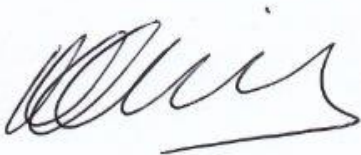
CONCLUSION:

The summary provided in this memorandum concludes the first-round of engagement. The next steps in completing the Privately-Owned tree Management Strategy include the Consultant completing a preliminary evaluation the cost/administrative implications, potential partnerships, and alignment with community values for the top four management tools selected by Council. The community and Council will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on this preliminary evaluation at future engagement opportunities to ensure that these management tools represent the best opportunity to protect and enhance privately-owned trees in Halton Hills before the final Strategy is presented to Council in the fall of 2020.

Reviewed and approved by,

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Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager of Climate Change and Asset Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dharmen'.

Dharmen Dhaliah, Acting Director of Strategic Planning

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Marshall'.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer