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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Operational Services

Re: Tree Removal Application – 72 Harrison Avenue

To: Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Sara Tienkamp, Manager of Parks and Fleet

Date: June 6, 2022

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Tree Removal Application – 72 Harrison Avenue be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Tree Removal Application – 72 Harrison Avenue be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

The subject property is listed on the Town of Aurora's Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest under Tree Protection By-law 5850-16. Section 9 (1) (b) states:

If a tree subject to an application is found by the Director to be a Heritage Tree, the Director shall not issue a permit unless the injury, destruction or removal is approved by Council following a review by the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee.

On April 18, 2022, the Parks Division received a formal Tree Removal Application and supporting documentation for the removal of one (1), White Spruce tree on a lean from the rear yard of the property.

The Heritage Advisory Committee's comments on this application should focus on the impact on the heritage character of the neighbourhood, not the physical condition of the tree.

Analysis

Town forestry staff assessment confirms information in application for removal.

Staff attended the site and met with the applicant to assess the Spruce tree. The resident has concerns about the lean of the tree towards the house and future impacts as it continues to grow. In addition, the tree is not aesthetically pleasing, and the owner would prefer to have trees along the perimeter of the property to maximize useable space in the yard.

It was confirmed that a 15-metre-high Spruce tree, with a DBH of 44 cm, was growing on an approximate 20 degree lean towards the house. The tree has a health and structural integrity rating of fair. The crown is open and somewhat sparse, and the root plate does not appear to have shifted as the ground is level around the tree. It is unknown if the tree was not planted straight originally or if winds have impacted the tree causing it to move towards house when it was younger in age, as the main leader has self corrected over time.

Applicant is proposing planting two (2) native Sugar Maple trees as compensation for the removal.

The owner is proposing planting two (2) Sugar Maple trees along the western property line to restore the canopy loss as the result from the removal of the Spruce tree.

As per the Town's Tree Removal Compensation Policy, the value of this tree \$1,616.22. Should the removal be approved staff will work with the applicant to fulfill the requirements of the compensation policy.

Attachments

Attachment #1 – Tree Removal Application, April 18, 2022.

Attachment #2 – Spruce Tree Photos