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Town of Aurora  
**General Committee Report**  
No. OPS20-018

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**Subject:** Tree Removal Permit Application – 17 Church Street

**Prepared by:** Sara Tienkamp, Manager, Parks and Fleet

**Department:** Operational Services

**Date:** December 1, 2020

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## Recommendation

1. That Report No. OPS20-018 be received; and
2. That the Tree Removal Permit Application for 17 Church Street be approved in accordance with the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) review.

## Executive Summary

This report provides Council with information on one (1) Tree Removal Application on a property with trees defined as “Heritage” under the Tree protection Bylaw 5850-16. The application is for the removal of four (4) trees, in good health on the property for the purposes of landscaping the rear yard, allowing for increased sunlight in the yard, grass growth and area for children to play.

- Tree Removal Permit Application from DreamWorks Tree Services received for 17 Church Street
- The Arborist Report/Replanting Plan provided by the consulting Arborist recommends replanting of native species as part of the landscape design
- Trees species on property not ideal and growth habits can lead to potential long-term issues on the property and surrounding area.

## Background

The subject property is listed on the Town of Aurora’s Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest under Tree Protection Bylaw 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.

## Analysis

### **Tree Removal Permit Application from DreamWorks Tree Services received for 17 Church Street**

In mid August 2020, the Parks Division received a formal Tree Removal Permit Application and supporting documentation from DreamWorks Tree Services for 17 Church Street.

The Town's Forestry Technician attended site to confirm the details of the application. Staff verified that the information on the application was correct and as follows:

Tree ID #	Species	DBH (cm)	Condition
1	Locust	17	Good
2	Norway Maple	19.5	Good
3	Norway Maple	38	Good
4	Sliver Maple (multi -stem)	10,12,15,11,14	Good

Staff advised the resident the property is listed on the Town's Registry of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest under Bylaw 5850 -16 and that their application for removal would need to proceed through the Heritage Advisory Committee as per the bylaw for review, followed by Council approval.

**The Arborist Report/Replanting Plan provided by the consulting Arborist recommends replanting of native species as part of the landscape design.**

Trees currently on this property are central to the rear yard and residents would like to remove the trees and locate new trees towards the perimeter as part of a new landscape plan to allow for greater recreational use and increased sunlight.

The HAC discussed the retention of the locust tree and the resident is certainly open to the relocation of the tree on the property should it be feasible to do so, considering underground utilities do not interfere with the excavation.

It is recommended that replanting on the property be species of trees native to Ontario and soils in the old part of Aurora are such that planting of native would be successful.

**Trees species on property not ideal and growth habits can lead to potential long-term issues on the property and surrounding area.**

Two (2) of the trees identified on the property for removal are Norway Maples, classified as an invasive species. They regenerate easily by seed, grow rapidly in the landscape, and threaten native species as they populate naturalized areas. Many jurisdictions in Ontario no longer allow them to be planted by developers or along municipal streets. Aurora has removed them from the list of species, acceptable for planting.

The multi-stem Silver Maple has five (5) stems originating from the ground, more than likely a result of the tree being cut off as small whip and left to sprout out without removal of the roots. This type of growth is of concern, as the tree stems mature and sprawl at irregular angles, the structural integrity of the tree in the long term could be potentially compromised significantly.

## **Advisory Committee Review**

The Tree Permit Application for this property was reviewed by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) at its November 2, 2020 meeting. The minutes include the following comments from the committee:

“The Committee expressed support for the proposal as well as concerns regarding the potential loss of mature trees from the neighbourhood canopy. The Committee inquired about the Town's tree by-law protection of new trees on a heritage-designated property and staff provided clarification. The Committee recommended that the Locust (#1) and Silver Maple (#4) trees remain and that the two Norway Maple (#2 and #3) trees be replaced with two indigenous, mature trees of substantial size.”

## **Legal Considerations**

Since the trees are located on a listed property, only Council has the authority to approve the removal of the trees, after a review by HAC. Council may approve the removal subject to certain conditions, which includes financial compensation or replanting of trees.

## **Financial Implications**

As the trees in question are located on private property, their removal will be solely at the property owner's expense should Council approve their associated tree removal permit applications. The Town has also collected the appropriate fees and security deposits relating to this application.

## **Communications Considerations**

Not applicable.

## **Link to Strategic Plan**

This report supports the Strategic Plan goal of Supporting Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability by investigating opportunities to assess the merits of measuring the Town's natural capital assets.

## **Alternative(s) to the Recommendation**

1. That Council approve the Tree Removal Application as presented by the resident for the removal of four (4) at 17 Church Street.
2. As directed by Council.

## **Conclusions**

That the Tree Removal Application located at 17 Church Street be approved in accordance with the HAC review.

## **Attachments**

Attachment #1 – Tree Removal Permit Application – 17 Church Street

Attachment #2 – Arborist Report

Attachment # 3 – Replanting Plan

## **Previous Reports**

None.

## **Pre-submission Review**

Agenda Management Team review on December 1, 2020

## **Approvals**

Approved by Allan D. Downey, Director of Operations

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer