



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Don Giberson, Environmental Services Director**
Date: July 17 2017
Report: ESD.17.23
Subject: Municipal Tree Policy

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receive the report from Don Giberson, Environmental Services Director Re: Re: Municipal Tree Policy, AND

That South Huron Council adopt the Tree Policy as presented.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a tree policy for approval and implementation.

Background and Analysis:

Tree removal and replacements has been a contentious issue in the Municipality and this tree policy is intended to address those issues. Tree removal within the municipal road allowance and on municipal property is primarily carried out for public safety or to maintain municipal infrastructure. There are unique challenges associated with replanting trees in the municipal road allowance. The location and species of trees also impacts maintenance of existing and future municipal infrastructure.

The Municipality recognizes that trees are an important amenity in the community, contribute to the well being of our residents and the natural environment. Trees are effective in the battle against the negative affects of Climate Change. Accordingly, a clear, effective policy is important to the Municipality.

Operational Considerations:

As this report is being presented for information purposes only, no alternatives are presented.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key objectives that are reflective of the collective perspectives of the strategic planning process.

The recommendations and actions outlined in this report are reflective of the following strategic objectives:

Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility

The tree policy recommends that funding for tree removal/replacement be integrated with the budget process to ensure fiscal responsibility. The policy also recommends procurement of trees through the ABCA to fully utilize the scale of efficiencies in purchasing.

Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership

The tree policy has been communicated to Council and the public thorough reports to Council.

Transparent, Accountable and Collaborative Governance

Public reporting of the tree policy demonstrates commitment to transparent, accountable and collaborative governance.

Dedicated Economic Development Effort

A tree replacement program enhances the well being of the residents in our community and contributes to the retention and attraction of businesses and economic development opportunities.

Financial Impact:

Tree removal and replacement costs are currently included in the Recreation, Transportation and Landfill operating budgets. Any increase in funding for tree removal and/or replacement would be subject to a future budget process and Council approval.

Legal Impact:

There are no legal implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Policies/Legislation:

None

Consultation:

Jason Parr, Manager of Transportation Services
Jo-Anne Fields, Manager of Recreation Services

Related Documents:

Tree Policy

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by several vertical strokes and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Don Giberson, Environmental Services Director