



Staff Report

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Report To: General Government Committee

Date of Meeting: November 29, 2021

Report Number: PWD-030-21

Submitted By: Stephen Brake, Director of Public Works

Reviewed By: Andrew C. Allison, CAO

Resolution#:

File Number:

By-law Number:

Report Subject: Arborist Review of Red Oak Tree at 21 Beech Avenue

Recommendations:

1. That Report PWD-030-21 and any related communication items, be received;
2. That Council provide staff with approval to carry out the tree preservation plans provided in the review completed by Del Cressman for the red oak tree at 21 Beech Avenue;
3. That the recommended tree preservation plan be funded from the Self-Insured Losses Reserve at an estimated year-one cost of \$12,000; and
4. That all interested parties listed in Report PWD-030-21 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Report Overview

This report addresses Council Resolution C-227-21, passed on July 5, 2021, that referred the matter of the red oak tree at 21 Beech Avenue back to staff to look at the option suggested by Mr. and Mrs. Clermont during their delegation. The suggestion was for Mr. Dell Cressman of Cressman Tree Maintenance and Landscaping Ltd. to review both existing arborist reports and that he submit a quote for the services he recommends. Resolution C-227-21 also requested that a survey be completed of the red oak tree location to determine the exact property boundaries.

1. Background

- 1.1 On June 21, 2021, Staff submitted Report [PWD-025-21](#) to General Government Committee. The report requested Council's direction to implement the recommended tree preservation plan prepared by Arborist Michael Richardson of Richardson Tree Care for the red oak tree located at 21 Beech Avenue. The tree preservation plan recommends pruning, soil invigoration and a limb support system using poles and cables at an upset cost of \$56,100. A copy of the Generalized Tree Preservation and Pricing Report dated April 19, 2021 by Mr. Michael Richardson is provided as Attachment 1.
- 1.2 At the regular Council meeting held on July 5, 2021, delegations were made by Stephen Brickell, Mark Clermont and Darlene Clermont regarding Report [PWD-025-21](#). Mr. and Mrs. Clermont are the homeowners of 21 Beech Avenue. During their delegation, the Clermont's advised that they too had hired a master arborist to assess the conditions of the red oak tree. In their arborists report, prepared by Ruurd van de Ven of Van de Ven Consulting Group, the tree preservation plan recommends pruning and the use of a cable support system only. The cost of the 7-year preservation plan provided by Mr. van de Ven is estimated to cost between \$12,000 and \$18,000. A copy of the Arborist Report prepared by Mr. van de Ven dated May 18, 2021, is provided as Attachment 2.
- 1.3 At the regular meeting held on July 5, 2021, Council passed Resolution C-227-21 that referred the matter of report [PWD-025-21](#) back to staff. The suggestion proposed by the Clermont's requested that Del Cressman, I.S.A. Board Master Certified Arborist, review both arborist reports and that he submit a quote for the services he recommends. Resolution C-227-21 also requested that staff obtain a survey of the tree location to determine the exact property boundary lines.

2. Analysis

- 2.1 In the days following the July 5, 2021, Council meeting, staff reached out to Mrs. Clermont to discuss the direction that was provided in Resolution C-227-21 and also to confirm the Municipality's proposed plan of action.
- 2.2 On August 10, 2021, a formal request was made for Mr. Del Cressman of Cressman Tree Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. to complete a third-party review of the two existing arborist reports and to recommend a tree preservation plan.
- 2.3 On October 15, 2021, Mr. Cressman submitted his review. The recommended tree preservation plan includes a three-step approach that includes the pruning of the tree to reduce the size of the crown, the installation of a cabling program only and the provision of a deep root fertilizing of the tree. These specific treatments follow the general recommendations of the report submitted by Mr. Ruurd van de Ven at an estimated cost of \$12,000 in the first year. A copy of the review completed by Mr. Cressman is provided as Attachment 3.
- 2.4 Mr. Cressman has indicated that he believes the balance of the 150- to 200-year-old red oak tree can be preserved. Work, however, needs to begin immediately on the preservation plan with a commitment to follow-up with on-going inspections, pruning's and fertilizations. The costs associated with future maintenance is expected to be an additional \$10,000 spread over the next six years.
- 2.5 Staff also retained IBW Surveyors to complete a survey of the tree location at 21 Beech Avenue. The completed sketch confirms that 1.04 m of the tree's diameter is situated on private property while 1.18 m exists within the public road right-of-way. A copy of the sketch prepared by IBW dated September 3, 2021, is provided as Attachment 4.

3. Concurrence

This report has been reviewed by the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer who concurs with the recommendation for the source of funding.

4. Conclusion

It is respectfully recommended that Council provide approval for staff to implement the tree preservation plans presented by Mr. Del Cressman for the red oak tree at 21 Beech Avenue. It is also requested that Council provide support the proposed future tree preservation requirements that include on-going tree inspections, pruning and fertilizations as part of staff's regular work plan and annual budget request.

Staff Contact: Stephen Brake, Director of Public Works, 905-623-3379 ext. 2903 or sbrake@clarington.net

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Generalized Tree Preservation and Pricing (Richardson Tree Care)

Attachment 2 – Arborist Report (Van de Ven Consulting Group)

Attachment 3 – Review of Arborist’s Reports (Cressman Tree & Landscaping Ltd.)

Attachment 4 – Red Oak Tree Sketch – 21 Beech Avenue (IBW Surveyors)

Interested Parties:

The following interested parties will be notified of Council's decision:

Clarington Heritage Committee

Rick McEachern

Mark & Darlene Clermont