

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

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Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 6:16 pm p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Acting Mayor R. Bassam
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor M. Little
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn (via telephone)
Councillor L. Muri
Councillor A. Nixon

Absent: Mayor R. Walton

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. B. Dwyer, Manager – Development Services
Ms. S. Haid, Manager – Sustainable Community Development
Mr. M. Brown, Community Forester
Mr. R. Boase, Environmental Protection Officer
Ms. S. Rogers, Section Manager – Parks Planning
Ms. L. Brick, Confidential Council Clerk

1. Opening by the Mayor

Acting Mayor Little opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

2. Tree Work in the District Policy – Proposed Amendments Tree Bylaw

File No. 12.6300.01/000.000

Presentation: Mark Brown, Community Forester and Richard Boase, Environmental Protection Officer

Memo: Community Forester and Environmental Protection Officer, May 25, 2012

Mr. Brian Bydwell introduced the presentation and reviewed the process which has been conducted to arrive at this point. Mr. Bydwell noted that staff will bring these items forward for further consideration at a Regular Meeting of Council.

Mr. Mark Brown, Community Forester, spoke regarding the Tree Work in the District policy highlighting the changes which are proposed for the policy.

Mr. Brown reported that the purpose of the policy is to preserve and enhance the Districts forests and mitigate safety issues to the public. The updates to the Policy include:

- Tree inspection procedures;
- Implementation of new tree risk assessment standards; and,
- Procedures for prioritization of tree work.

The permit process within the policy will allow tree work on District owned trees and is designed to be fair and equitable. The policy is being updated to address tree risk management procedures, address issues

relating to the neighbourhood consent process, and balance the public expectations for tree management with the District budget.

The updated neighbourhood consent requirements reduce the number of required consent signatures and give staff more discretion to in deciding whether or not unanimous consent is needed.

The next steps include returning the updated tree policy and tree bylaw to Council for consideration and ongoing implementation and monitoring by staff.

Mr. Richard Boase, Environmental Protection Officer, spoke regarding Tree Bylaw 7671 outlining the proposed changes to the bylaw. Mr. Boase clarified that no new changes are proposed to the steep slope and riparian portion of the bylaw. Under the bylaw staff are proposing a new definition for large trees on private property, the removal of which will be at the sole discretion of the owner; however, there will be a permit process required and a minimum requirement to maintain 20% canopy coverage on the property.

Mr. Boase advised that owners may prune branches of District trees, which are overhanging their private property, without a permit as long as the pruning does not have a detrimental effect on the tree.

Staff will implement community outreach programs and tree contractor workshops starting in the fall of 2012, assuming the new bylaws are adopted.

Mr. David Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that brochures will be produced and made available to the public to reflect the information in the bylaws.

Council Discussion:

Mr. Boase commented on the retention of raptor nest trees, clarifying the characteristics of raptor wildlife trees and the provincial legislation. Mr. Boase confirmed that hazardous trees would be removed if they are a threat to residents, even if the tree is a raptor nest tree.

Mr. Boase advised that the bylaw definition of stream and ditches has been changed to reflect what is listed in the Provincial wildlife regulations. Mr. Boase further reviewed the procedure which is followed to afford protection to watercourses.

Council requested that a plan be developed to notify residents of the designated heritage trees in their neighbourhoods.

Mr. Boase confirmed that homeowners are required to provide insurance and a security deposit for work on non-hazardous District owned trees. The work must be done by a contractor on the prime contractors list and the contractor must provide the appropriate documentation.

Council requested clarification in the penalties section as to whether fines are levied for each tree cut in contravention of the bylaw or if the fine would be applied once per "incident" which may pertain to multiple trees.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

