



Staff Report

Planning & Development Services – Planning Division

Report To: COW-Operations, Planning and Development Services
Meeting Date: March 14, 2023
Report Number: PDS.23.016
Title: 2023 Municipal Tree By-Law Update and Public Meeting Request
Prepared by: Adam Smith, Director of Planning & Development Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report PDS.23.016, entitled “2023 Municipal Tree By-Law Update and Public Meeting Request”;

AND THAT Council direct Staff to proceed with an additional Public Meeting being the third of this project to receive comment/feedback on prospective options for the review of Municipal Tree Preservation By-law 2010-68

AND THAT Council acknowledge that in accordance with the typical Public Meeting practice, there will be no consideration by Council of any recommendation to approve revisions to the current Municipal Tree Preservation By-law 2010-68 By law at the proposed Public Meeting.

B. Overview

This report provides an update on the progress to-date in updating the Municipal Tree Preservation By-law 2010-68 and describe next steps for the project in 2023. Principally, staff are proposing hosting an additional public meeting to review the process to date and provide options for possible next steps for the project to move forward including further public consultation and input.

C. Background

Planning Staff began the process of reviewing By-law 2010-68 in 2019 with the overall goal to prevent premature tree cutting/removal on larger privately owned properties in advance of a development application. Since that time, staff have conducted an extensive review process that included different methods of engagement as indicated below:

- 2 public meetings
- 1 joint consultation meeting with the Agricultural Advisory Committee and Sustainability Advisory Committee
- 7 staff reports related to reviewing the by-law

- 1 community survey

Beyond the formal presentation provided on the proposed Tree By-law all reports related to the file were circulated to the Agricultural Advisory Committee since 2019. For additional information on these activities, please consult the project webpage accessed through the link below:

<https://www.thebluemountains.ca/planning-building-construction/current-projects/strategic-projects-initiatives/municipal-tree-law>

Most recently, staff presented [Staff Report No. PDS.22.113](#) on September 27th 2022 that recommended repealing the existing by-law and an enacting a new by-law that was reflective of the consultation completed. Key aspects of the by-law proposed include the following:

- Expanding the scope of regulating tree removal to include Town-owned land and identifying applicability being solely within the Settlement Area
- Establishing a process to the issuance of a permit for tree removal including terms and conditions
- Refining the list of exemptions under the by-law

The previous term of Council deferred a decision on the by-law in October 2022.

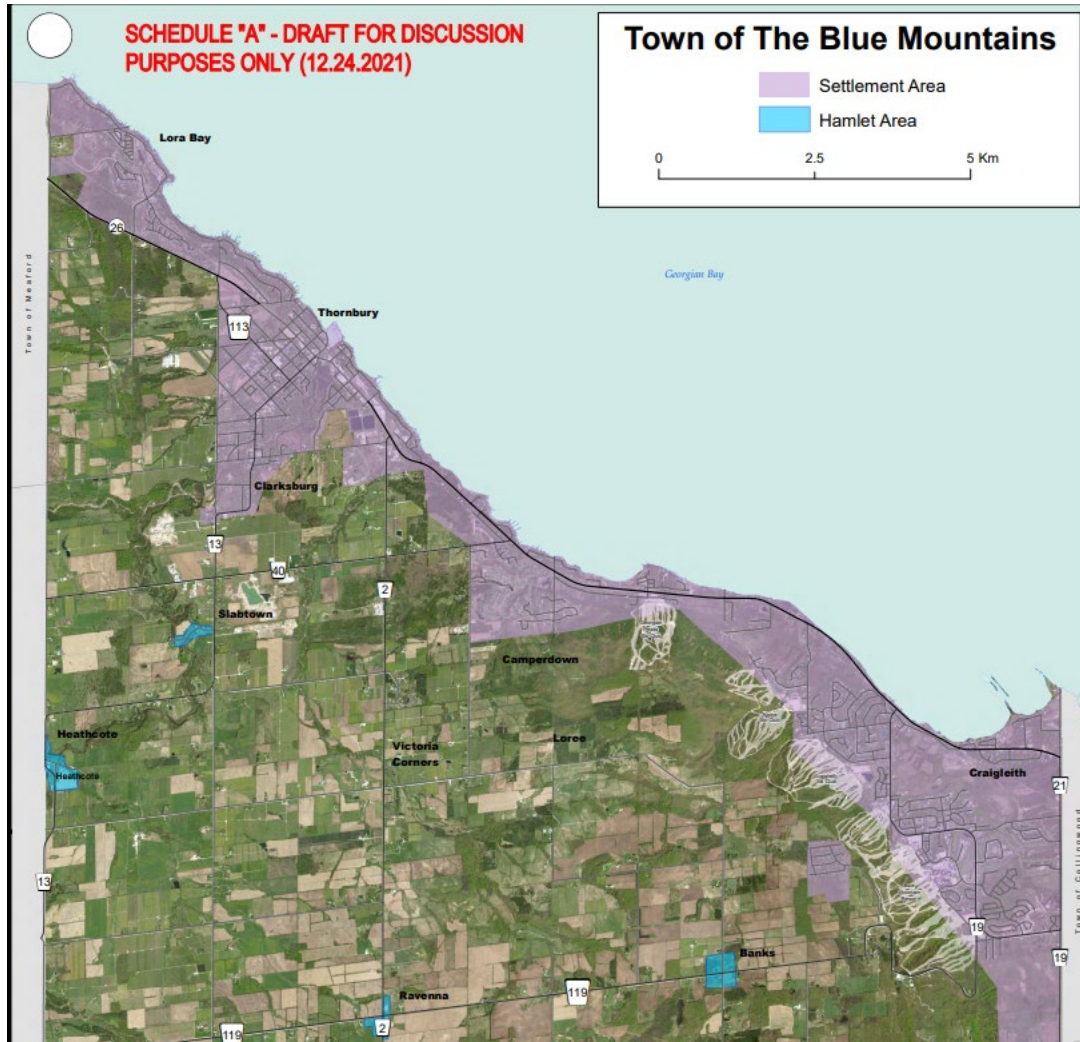
D. Analysis

Despite the extensive public consultation that has been completed for this project, staff are proposing a public meeting in recognition that this term of Council did not establish the project scope and has yet to discuss the latest iteration of the draft by-law.

The focus of the public meeting will be to review options for the project moving forward. Following this meeting, staff will prepare a recommendation report that will determine the future of the by-law based on the feedback received on proposed options.

At this time, staff are seeking to hold this public meeting on May 30th 2023 and anticipate preparing a recommendation report shortly thereafter.

The area of applicability for the by-law will not change and is illustrated below:



E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

F. Environmental Impacts

N/A

G. Financial Impacts

Significant staff time has been dedicated to this project since 2019 including numerous reports to Council, reporting to relevant advisory committees and communications via the website.

H. In Consultation With

Senior Management Team

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report will be the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre in accordance with the following schedule:

- March 14th Committee of the Whole – Initial staff report PDS.23.016 with recommendation to proceed to public consultation;
- March 27th Council – recommendation from Committee of the Whole considered by Council
- March 28th Public Meeting Notice posted;
- May 4th Public Meeting advertised in the Collingwood Connection;
- May 30th Public Meeting
- August 15th Committee of the Whole – Follow-up report to the Public Meeting, attaching comments received in response to the Public Meeting;
- August 28th Council – recommendation from Committee of the Whole considered by Council, and related By-law, if any

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Adam Smith,
directorplanningdevelopment@thebluemountains.ca

J. Attached

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Smith
Director of Planning & Development Services

For more information, please contact:
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