

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members of Council

PREPARED BY: Jonathon Graham, Interim CAO/Director of Operations

DEPARTMENT: Infrastructure & Operations

DIVISION: Planning

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May-08-19

SUBJECT: Protection and Enhancement of Tree Canopy and Natural
Vegetation Policy

RECOMMENDATION

Be It Resolved that the Report entitled “Protection and Enhancement of Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy be received; and

That the Policy be hereby enacted as presented.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy was developed in response to new legislative requirements enacted through Bill 68 (An Act to amend various Acts in relation to municipalities) under Section 270 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended. The intent of this policy is to provide the framework for the Municipality as its commitment to protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation within its boundary.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Leadership: To Create a Positive, Open Organizational Culture By Providing High Quality Public Services

Sustains: To Cultivate An Active, Healthy And Livable Community By Protecting Our Natural Resources

BACKGROUND

Our Mission: To lead, live and invest in a dynamic, inclusive community 1 | Page

As a result of new legislative requirements under the *Municipal Act, 2001, as amended*, staff consulted with the County of Middlesex Planning Department for guidance on the development of such a policy. Some of the documents which would be directly referenced under the new policy are under the jurisdiction of the County and would therefore make sense to compliment other policies already developed at the upper tier as well as other lower tier municipalities in Middlesex County.

DISCUSSION

In consultation with the County of Middlesex Planning Department a policy was drafted that would meet the intent of the legislation. This policy was provided to Policy Committee for their input and review on April 11, 2019 and was subsequently recommended for Council consideration.

FINANCIAL

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT

Draft Policy

Prepared By: Jackie Tiedeman, Clerk

Reviewed By: Jonathon Graham, Interim CAO/Director of Operations

Approved By: Jonathon Graham, Interim CAO/Director of Operations

Section: Operational Policies

Subject: Protection and Enhancement of Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy

Policy Number: TBD

Version: 1

Review Frequency: As required

Approved by: Council

Approval Date: May 8, 2019

Application: The manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality as required under the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended.

Notes:

Legislative Authority: *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001 as amended*

Section 270(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 requires that the municipality adopt and maintain policies with respect to several matters including the “manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the Municipality”

Other documents which impact tree canopy and natural vegetation within North Middlesex include:

North Middlesex Official Plan

Middlesex County Official Plan

Middlesex Natural Heritage Systems Study

Decisions under the Planning Act, such as Development Agreements

Decisions under the Drainage Act, such as new drains and improvements and maintenance to existing drains

Middlesex County Woodlands Conservation By-law

County Forest Management

Intent:

The intent of this policy is to comply with new legislative requirements enacted through Bill 68 (An Act to amend various Acts in relation to Municipalities) under Section 270 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. This policy provides the framework for the Municipality of North Middlesex as to the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation within its boundary.

Policy Statement:

The Municipality of North Middlesex promotes the protection and enhancement of tree canopy and natural vegetation throughout the municipality.

North Middlesex Council understands that trees reduce CO₂, ozone levels, erosion and can reduce heating and air conditioning costs. Trees and vegetation can trap dust and debris, providing for cleaner air for people and animals to breathe, which contributes to quality of life in both urban and agricultural areas. Trees and natural vegetation also provide an ecosystem for animals, insects and other life.

Definition:

“Municipality” means the Corporation of the Municipality of North Middlesex

Procedure and Responsibilities:

The Municipality has undertaken a number of initiatives that, cumulatively, protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation with the Municipality:

“North Middlesex Official Plan

The North Middlesex Official Plan (OP) guides the Municipality in land use policy and physical planning for decisions for the Municipality. The OP encourages the retention of woodlots and wherever possible and appropriate, trees be replanted to replace trees removed if a development proceeds. This plan encourages the preservation or replanting of roadside and fence line shrubs and trees and riparian area vegetation wherever possible and appropriate in the context new development.:

The Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex is responsible for supporting the policy and providing the necessary financial and human resources to carry out the intent of the policy.

The CAO, Clerk and Senior Management Team for the Municipality are responsible for supporting the policy and recommending adequate budgetary resources to meet the obligations under this policy when considering various applications, projects and initiatives.

Complaints and Concerns:

The CAO, Clerk and Senior Management Team for the Municipality shall be responsible for receiving complaints and/or concerns related to this policy. Upon receipt of such complaints and/or concerns, staff shall notify Council.

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