



Town of Antigonish Tree Planting and Removal Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee and the Town of Antigonish respecting the planting and removal of trees within the Town to provide maximum benefits to the community with minimal costs and conflicts to abutting land uses, pedestrian and vehicular traffic circulation, and regular maintenance programs.

Application

1. This policy shall be referred to as the 'Tree Planting and Removal Policy'. This policy applies to trees in the Town of Antigonish, also referred to as the 'Town'.

General

2. It is the policy of the Town to:
 - i. remove dead, dying or diseased trees on public property;
 - ii. recommend and encourage:
 - a. the proper pruning, protection and repair of privately owned trees in the Town;
 - b. the planting of trees of suitable species at desirable sites within the Town;
 - iii. review development plans and agreements to provide recommendations regarding landscaping, trees and forest cover;
 - iv. maintain the large mature trees in Antigonish;
 - v. implement tree planting programs to enhance tree canopy within the Town to maximize the benefits to the Town and its citizens in terms of storm water attenuation, reduction in urban warming, enhancement to aesthetics and improvement to air quality.

Tree Removal Requirements on Private Property

3. The Town shall not remove trees from private property unless the owner has granted written permission or an order requiring the removal of the tree has been issued.
4. Town employees may enter upon land within the Town to:
 - i. treat the trees on land as approved and recommended by Forestry Canada;
 - ii. inspect the trees to determine whether they are in a diseased condition or damaged to the extent that they constitute a hazard to the safety of persons or property.

5. Town employees may order an owner of land, within thirty days of service of a copy of the order, to remove a tree or limb that is, in the opinion of the Town, hazardous to the persons or property or so affected by disease or insect infestation as to endanger the life and health of trees in the vicinity.
6. An order issued under section 5 of this policy must contain a description of the location of the tree or limb directed to be removed and a copy of the order must be served upon the owner of the land.
7. Where the owner fails to remove the tree or limb described in the order within thirty days of service of a copy of the order, a person authorized by the Town may enter upon the land upon which the tree or limb is situated, without warrant or other legal process and remove the tree or limb.
8. The actual cost of removal of the tree or limb pursuant to section 7 may be recovered as a debt from the owner of the land upon which it was located and is a first lien on the real property of the owner of the land and may be collected in the same manner as taxes.

Tree Planting Guidelines

9. The selection of suitable sites for the location of street trees is a difficult process. Tree selection and planting considerations should include:
 - i. *Existing conditions:* Consider the soil type and volume, moisture, available growing space above ground and proximity to hard physical plant (such as hydro wires, gas lines, lighting, hydrants, vaults, etc.).
 - ii. *Stress:* Consider the tolerance to conditions such as compacted soil, diseases, drought, insects and road salt spray.
 - iii. *Time:* Consider which species can be transplanted/moved at specific times in the year.
 - iv. *Native:* Consider the suitability of trees indigenous to the region.
 - v. *Fruit:* Consider the size, season and abundance of fruit produced.
 - vi. *Disease:* Consider the potential for widespread disease and subsequent costs associated with removal and replacement of the trees.
 - vii. *Variety:* Avoid mass planting of a single species to promote long term sustainability and increase the ability to manage street tree risk.
 - viii. *Aesthetics:* Consider the aesthetic value of the tree in terms of streetscape design. The planting of a mixture of tree species which have similar form is desired.
 - ix. *Future maintenance and growth:* Consider the level of maintenance the tree requires and the ability of the Town to care for the tree. Also consider future rooting demands and the available growing space for the tree canopy.

- x. *Sustainability*: Consider planting larger caliper trees in high-traffic, pedestrian areas.
10. Consideration of the tree planting guidelines in s. 9 of this policy shall be observed when selecting trees as part of the Town of Antigonish Bench, Bike-rack and Tree Dedication Program.

Repeal

11. The Tree Removal Policy, adopted June 16, 1997, is hereby repealed.

CAO's Annotation for Official Policy Book

Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent: December 16, 2013

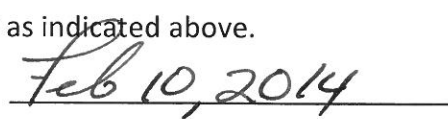
To Consider (Minimum 7 Days): December 23, 2013

Date of Passage of Current Policy: December 23, 2013

I certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.



Chief Administrative Officer



Date