Workshop Summary: 05/17/18

CITY OF HAMILTON STAFF WORKSHOP SUMMARY

This report provides a high-level summary of participant feedback and is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting. If you have any questions after reviewing this summary, please contact Catherine Plosz, Natural Heritage Planner, City of Hamilton, at Catherine.Plosz@hamilton.ca or 905-546-2424 ext. 1231.

Event Overview

On May 17, 2018, the City of Hamilton hosted an internal working seminar for the Hamilton Urban Forest Strategy. The workshop was held at City Hall at 71 Main Street West on the 8th Floor in Room 830 in Hamilton from 1:00-3:30pm. The working seminar was attended by representatives from Forestry and Horticulture, Community Planning, Public Health Services, Landscape Architecture Services, Planning and Engineering, Urban Renewal, Public Works Design, Hamilton Water, Parks and Cemeteries, Engineering Services, and Development Planning. The event structure was:

1:00-1:10pm – Welcome and Introductions

1:10-1:55pm – Presentation – An Urban Forest Strategy for Hamilton: Dillon staff presentation on the context and objectives for the Hamilton Urban Forest Strategy, including interactive mentimeter questions.

1:55-2:10pm – Break

2:10-3:10pm – Strengthening our Urban Forest: City staff engagement activity identifying ways to reach the City's target of 30-35% tree cover.

3:25-3:30pm – Next Steps and Closing

Consultation materials are available online at

www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/urban-forest-strategy

Source: City of Hamilton

Hamilton

BioForest

RESOURCES GROUP

Other verbal and written comments collected as part of the workshop presentation and the collaborative brainstorming exercise not captured above include:

- Provide information on the percentage of private and public trees that make up the current 17% tree canopy cover;
- Trees were described as disruptive (e.g., interfere with street lights and intersections) to City servicing;
- Establish user agreements to ease/balance maintenance responsibility concerns;
- Paradigm shift – modify existing practices to protect larger trees (maintenance ought to be exhausted before removal is enforced);
- Actively purchase vacant lands in built up areas and create forest;
- Consider what pressures may be introduced to resources (e.g., human, costs, etc.) by enlarging the forest infrastructure;
- Reduce salt use in winter;
- Enforce a private tree by-law especially for develops of subdivisions;
- Advertising campaign on the benefits of urban trees: air quality, property values, mental health, physical well-being, climate change mitigation, and habitat;
- Printing GIS data in open data to allow residents to see priority tree planting sites and allow residents to fund raise and plant;
- Vertical forest;
- Introduce a Downtown Tree Planting Plan; and
- Increase tree replacement requirements for developments

Next Steps

Further community consultations related to the Urban Forest Strategy are being organized, including a second workshop in spring 2019. Until then, you can continue to learn more about the Project here: www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/urban-forest-strategy