

ITEM	17
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	14
COUNCIL MEETING	1979 02 19

RE: LETTER DATED 1979 FEBRUARY 12 FROM  
MRS. DAPHNE DULSON, 4842 INMAN AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C. V5G 2Y4  
REGARDING TREE PRESERVATION IN BURNABY

Appearing on the agenda for the 1979 February 19 meeting of Council is a copy of a letter dated 1979 February 12 from Ms. Daphne Dulson, 4842 Inman Avenue, Burnaby, requesting consideration of a tree preservation program in Burnaby.

The following is the report of the Director of Planning in this connection.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Director of Planning be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1979 FEBRUARY 14  
FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING OUR FILE: 08.612  
SUBJECT: TREE PRESERVATION IN BURNABY

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT Council authorize the Director of Planning to introduce into the Departmental work program a study of the available legislative means to effect a tree preservation program in the Municipality and alternative methods of implementation, which would be the subject of a future report to Council.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Daphne Dulson of 4842 Inman Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 2Y4

REPORT

Appearing on the Agenda for the 1979 February 19 meeting of Council is a letter from Ms. Daphne Dulson of 4842 Inman Avenue expressing concern about indiscriminate removal of trees by property owners and developers, and requesting Council's serious consideration of means to preserve large trees which provide an amenity to the community at large.

The Planning Department welcomes the interest expressed by Ms. Dulson in this subject and is in sympathy with the desire to preserve the character of the Municipality, and the identity which it has achieved as a community in which development strives to maintain harmony with the natural setting. The views expressed in the letter reflect objectives that have been enunciated by members of Council in the past as well as by Municipal staff in past reports dealing with specific land- and development-related projects, and would seem to project the feelings of many citizens who have registered their concerns about tree preservation on occasions when indiscriminate clearing has taken place on development sites.

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In recent years, the Municipality has taken a variety of steps to protect the visual character of development areas by seeking to preserve or relocate/replace significant stands of trees. These steps have been largely applied through careful consideration of subdivision design, by application of pre-requisite conditions in development projects through the rezoning process, by encouraging tree retention where possible through Preliminary Plan Approval, by direct Municipal initiatives on Municipal development sites and Corporation subdivisions (including the application of covenants), by designation of major public areas such as Burnaby Mountain and ravine park sites as conservation areas, by undertaking tree planting programs (street tree planting, park site development, beautification projects and the like), and by preservation of treed buffer strips in major land developments and development of sites abutting arterial streets.

The foregoing measures have enjoyed a degree of success in heightening public awareness of green spaces, significant stands of quality tree growth, and valuable specimen trees where they exist, in areas where new development or public use is contemplated. Until recent years, however, no legislation existed to enable Municipalities to exercise control over the indiscriminate actions of individual land owners with respect to tree cutting on lands already developed. Under an amendment to Section 868 of the Municipal Act made in 1973, provision is made for regulation of cutting by a Municipal By-law.

" 868. The Council may by by-law regulate or prohibit --

- (f) the cutting of trees on lands within the municipality or within any area within the municipality, and require the holding of a permit for such purpose and fix a fee for such permit, and different regulations and prohibitions may be made for different areas; but a by-law pursuant to this clause does not apply to lands designated in a tree-farm licence, or to land constituting a forest reserve pursuant to the Forest Act, so long as the land continues to be so designated or reserved. "

The Planning Department has just recently obtained copies of By-laws passed in the City of Port Coquitlam and the District of North Saanich under this enabling legislation, and we believe the subject merits further examination and consideration by Council in order to preserve the character of the natural environment in Burnaby.

The Planning Department would be pleased to receive Council's approval for insertion into the Department's work program of a request to study the available legislation and the means to implement an effective program for the preservation of substantial trees and stands of trees which are significant in a community landscape sense.

  
A. L. Parr  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

  
DGS/ds

cc Municipal Engineer  
Parks and Recreation  
Administrator  
Chief Building Inspector