



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 14.7.1

Request for Halifax Regional Council's Consideration

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
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Date of Council Meeting: September 20, 2016

Subject: Tree stump removal

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council requests a staff report to investigate the establishment of dedicated funding for tree stump removal and replanting the former street trees.

Reason:

There are over 700 tree stumps identified that are in the queue for removal throughout the municipality. Many of these stumps have been there for several years. There is an open tender for removal of 300 of the oldest stumps. However, given the associated costs it may be only practical to remove 200 of the stumps. If the stumps are located on a main arterial road the removal requires lane drops and traffic control personnel to be in place and the costs for removal can increase significantly in these areas.

Currently there is no dedicated funding for tree stump removal or for replanting the street trees. Our Urban Forestry Department must try to utilize existing staff and other budgets to have the stumps removed. Residents are getting very frustrated as they are waiting years for removal. We have an Urban Forest Master Plan and are planting new trees in identified areas while at the same time residents must wait for a dead tree to be cut down. Then they wait years for the stumps to be grinded and area cleaned up. Then it can be several more years to have the street tree replanted. All three processes utilize different equipment and therefore cannot be done at the same time.

Outcome sought:

Dedicated funds are identified in the 2017/2018 operating and capital budgets for tree stump removal and replanting of the former dead street trees to ensure we maintain our urban forest. The funds should be ongoing to ensure we can catch up on the back log and have appropriate service levels on a go forward basis.

*Councillor
Linda Mosher*

District 9