



**VILLAGE OF BELCARRA**  
**Tree Committee**  
**Village Hall**  
**June 19, 2019**  
**Minutes**



Minutes of the Tree Committee for the Village of Belcarra, held Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at the Municipal Hall, 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, BC

Members in Attendance

Bramley, Les  
Chapman, Sandra – Chair  
Struk, Deborah

Members Absent

Begg, Mary – Vice Chair  
Greig, Vicky

Council in Attendance

Carolina Clark, Councillor

Staff in Attendance

Lorna Dysart, Chief Administrative Officer  
Bernie Serné, Superintendent of Public Works  
Paula Richardson, Administrative Services Assistant

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2.1 Agenda for June 19, 2019**

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda for June 19, 2019 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

**3.1 Minutes of May 22, 2019**

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from the meeting held May 22, 2019 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. Unfinished Business**

##### **4.1 Tree Trimming & Cutting – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document**

- a) Review Final Document
- b) Vote to adopt and disseminate Tree Trimming & Cutting FAQ Document

Discussion ensued with regard to the final document.

##### **Recommendation:**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document, dated June 14, 2019, be received for information; and

That the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document, dated June 14, 2019, be included in the report to Council for consideration with a recommendation that it be posted on the Village website.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1 Dangerous Trees due to tree topping**

Discussion ensued with Committee members regarding the following recommendations to be included in the Tree Committee report to Council for consideration:

It was moved and seconded:

- a) That the Village undertake to assess all Village property trees which have been topped on a three-year maintenance schedule and provide an addendum to Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 which captures the tree maintenance plan.

**CARRIED**

Committee members discussed arborist qualifications. B. Serné advised that using an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist is the accepted standard practise in Belcarra and recommended that the Bylaw indicate the level of certification required. Discussion ensued with regard to core samples to determine the health of a tree. L. Dysart noted that the Village cannot recommend services of any company to residents.

It was moved and seconded:

- b) That the assessment should take place with or by a qualified registered arborist who should review the trees for any risks to the public, health and potential removal; and  
That any recommendations made by the registered arborist should be addressed in a timely manner.

**CARRIED**

Committee members discussed BC Hydro practises with regard to tree topping and trimming for power line fire safety.

It was moved and seconded:

- c) That the Village cease to use tree topping of trees on municipal land as a measure of retaining views, or allowance for power lines; trees should be pruned to create view windows or trees should be removed if appropriate criteria is established.

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Village of Belcarra Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 discussion – suggested amendments**

Discussion ensued with regard to the replacement of trees damaged by residents where bank stability, slope retention or water running may be an issue. Root damage may also be an issue in construction areas. Committee members discussed the advantage of replacement trees of native species or shrubs which grow at a slower rate than hemlock or cedar trees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the following recommendations to be included in the Tree Committee report to Council for consideration, be deferred to the next meeting:

- a) That Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 be amended to include a replacement tree maintenance requirement, at applicant cost.
- b) That Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 be amended to include deciduous replacement tree options of BC native species which also reduce fire risk, provide animal habitat, retain soils, grow at a slower rate and to much lower heights than cedars & hemlocks.
- c) That Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 be amended to include the possible replacement species which may be: Dogwood, Oregon Grape, Saskatoon etc.

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

- d) That the name of Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 be amended to "Managing Trees, Views & Landscape".

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

That the following item be deferred to the next meeting:

- e) That Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 be amended to include a Separate Schedule A specific to the bylaw.

**CARRIED**



It was moved and seconded:

That the Tree Committee recommend to Council that staff prepare a new Tree Bylaw to replace Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987, with the title "Managing Trees, Views & Landscape"; and

That the Tree Committee make recommendations on amendments and definitions.

**CARRIED**

Committee members discussed definition amendments to be included in the report to Council. Discussion ensued with regard to the regular maintenance plan. L. Dysart noted that preparing a new tree bylaw is not part of the current Strategic Plan and may be part of budget discussions for next year.

Discussion ensued with regard to a balance between view corridors and the protection of wild life habitat. Committee members in attendance agreed that some of the definitions may be deferred to the next meeting where all members may be in attendance.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Tree Committee vote on definition amendments / additions for the Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987 as follows; and

That the approved definitions be included in the Committee report to Council.

- f) **"Tree Topping"** means to entirely sever the stem of a tree such that the upper stem and branches of the tree are completely removed, resulting in an abruptly truncated stem, and topping and topped shall have corresponding meanings.
- g) **"Crown"** means the entire system of branches, leaves and reproductive structures of a tree extending away from the trunk or main stem(s).
- h) **"Hazardous Tree"** means any tree which, due to its location, condition or any other circumstance, has been determined, by a Registered Certified Arborist, ISA approved, to present a hazard to the safety of persons, private property or any other tree(s).
- i) **"Certified Arborist"** means a person certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or the National Arborist Association as an arborist.
- j) **"Regular Maintenance Plan"**: to manage tree growth and health on a schedule created and executed by the Public Works Manager in consultation with a Certified Arborist as from time to time deemed advisable and approved by Council.
- k) **"Tree Removal"** means the cutting down of the entire tree. Yes
- l) **"Pruning"** "Pruning" means the trimming of living or dead parts from a tree in order to reduce size, maintain the shape and health of the tree and maintain view corridors.

- m) **"Permit"** shall mean tree removal /pruning permit issued in the form of schedule "C".
- n) **"Affected Property Owner"** means any adjacent property owner and any direct property owner whose line of sight or proximate enjoyment, including but not limited to views, aesthetics, and shade, may be affected if a tree cutting or pruning application is approved.

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

That the following definitions be deferred to the next Committee meeting:

- o) **"Replacement Tree"** means any tree or shrub, that is shown on a Tree Cutting and Replacement Plan as a replacement for a tree which has been cut down.
- p) **"A plan for tree planting if applicable"**: The Village will not allow to be planted on municipal land trees that will grow to a height that could impede utilities, signage visibility, safety and the enjoyment of views, or interfere with any municipal infrastructure in the ground.
- q) **"Tree"** means a woody perennial plant having one or more stems, with at least one stem having a diameter of 20 centimetres or more, measured at 1.4 metres above the natural grade on the uphill side of the tree.

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued with regard to Bylaws in other communities. Committee members discussed how the definition of a tree is measured i.e. diameter as opposed to height. L. Dysart advised that bylaws may not include any references which are imbedded in other legislation.

## 6. Next Steps

- Determine possible Riparian Area definitions to be included within Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 110, 1987
- Review deferred items and discuss whether amendments are required.

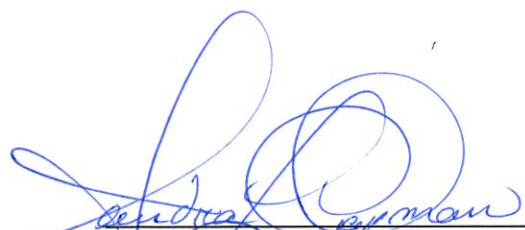
## 7. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

**Next meeting date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019**

Certified Correct:

  
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Lorna Dysart  
Chief Administrative Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Chapman  
Chair