

TITLE: TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes reference date: 23 February 2009

PURPOSE

To establish a policy for the governance of the Amherst Tree Advisory Committee.

BASIS

To provide Council and staff direction related to Dutch Elm diseased trees within the Town of Amherst and to other issues related to trees within the community which are not the direct responsibility of the Town Engineer under the *Municipal Government Act*. Dutch Elm Disease continues to be a significant concern to all municipalities in Nova Scotia including the Town of Amherst. To ensure community involvement, the Town requires the assistance from concerned community members to provide their expertise and direction so that the spread of Dutch Elm disease can be curtailed.

ROLE OF COMMITTEE

The role of a Tree Advisory Committee is to:

1. Advise Council as required from time to time with data related to Dutch Elm diseased trees in Amherst and the spread of this disease.
2. The Committee will work with staff in determining appropriate strategies and actions for the treatment and/or removal diseased trees.
3. The Committee will provide advice regarding the species of trees that the Town should plant in place of the trees that have been removed.
4. The Committee will work with staff and consider any training opportunities or resources that the Town should be accessing in addressing Dutch Elm Disease Trees in Amherst.
5. The Committee will provide advice and direction on matters related to Trees within the Town of Amherst that Council may request from time to time.

MEMBERSHIP:

1. The Council shall appoint members of the Tree Advisory Committee by resolution.
2. All members shall be residents of the Town and shall include two members of Town Council and three citizen appointees.
3. The term for citizen appointees shall be three years, and members may be re-appointed to the Committee without limitations. Citizen appointee terms shall be by fiscal year.

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4. In September of the last year of the term, an advertisement for citizen appointees shall be placed in the local newspaper. Council will appoint members for the new term prior to the end of that year.

MEETINGS:

1. Meetings will be scheduled by the Chairperson in consultation with staff. Generally meetings will commence at 12:00 noon.
2. The committee will meet at least three times annually. All meetings are open to the public.