

July 11, 2016

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operation and Facilities

RE: BIA Request to remove tree in front of 318 Scott Street

Background

Over the last number of years the Operations and Facilities Division has received a number of requests from the BIA to undertake works in the downtown core. In September of 2015 a report was brought forward to the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee and subsequently Mayor and Council outlining the cost to remove a tree from the downtown core as well as the recommendation to setup a meeting with the BIA to set out how requests of this nature would be handled by the O&F Division. The trees in the downtown core were installed on the Town right of way by the BIA, therefore the trees do not belong to the Town, however there was never an agreement for maintenance between the Town and the BIA outlining responsibilities for maintenance. There was a meeting held between the BIA and Town, however there was no agreement brought forward respecting how request from the BIA were to be handled.

On June 29, 2016 a letter was received from the BIA, requesting the removal of a nuisance tree in front of 318 Scott Street by the O&F Division. After a review of previous reports and the developments from the meeting held in 2015 with Doug Brown, CAO, it is the recommendation of Administration that the tree in question be removed and stump ground by the O&F Division staff in conjunction with help from Fort Frances Power Corporation in the fall of this year when the regular tree trimming takes place, and further that a maintenance agreement be developed with the BIA to address responsibilities for ongoing maintenance of the trees within the BIA area.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Rob', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis Rob, EIT
Manager of Operations and Facilities

Council approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities executive Committee that the that the tree in question be removed and stump ground by the O&F Division staff in conjunction with help from Fort Frances Power Corporation in the fall of this year when the regular tree trimming takes place, and further that a maintenance agreement be

2016JulyBIAtreerequest

September 23, 2015

Report To: Mayor & Council

From: Operations & Facilities Executive Committee

SUBJECT: BIA Request for Town In-Kind Services to be performed by the O & F Division workforce

Over the years the Town has provided assistance to the Downtown Scott Street BIA (property owners) organization for such items as;

- 1) Watering hanging flower baskets along Scott Street- 3times per week during the growing season
- 2) Erection of the Great Canadian Main Street Signs
- 3) Enhanced Snow Removal Services
- 4) Empty the garbage containers on a regular basis
- 5) Enhance Street Sweeping Services

There is no written agreement in place with the Downtown Scott Street BIA. At this time the BIA is requesting the following items to be completed by the Town's workforce;

- **The O & F Division removal of all the dead trees c/w stump and all roots along Scott Street** - Based on my inspection of the trees in the 100, 200 & 300 Blocks of Scott Street there appears only two trees; one in front of Betty's (Chico) and the other in front of the Museum (Black Knot disease). See attached pictures. Based on this request it is estimated that it would take four men two days or more depending if the concrete curb and gutter structure is damaged in removing the main tap root of the tree. Thus based on two days per tree it is estimated it would cost the Town \$5624.32 with no concrete work. See attached Spreadsheet No. 1. Also it is my understanding that the trees are owned and installed by the BIA and there is no agreement in place for on-going maintenance of these trees between the Town and the BIA. Also the existing trees as they grow will continue to cause sidewalk surface continuities in the future, where it is my understanding that the Town administration did not want the BIA to plant these trees in the first place.
- **Relocate the Exterior Mural attached to the building at 261 Scott Street to the building at 335 Scott Street.** It is estimated that it would take three men 3 days to complete this work. Also there is a high chance that the Mural might be damaged and some touch up painting might be required from the original artist. See attached pictures. It is estimated it would cost the Town \$2485.52 to complete this work. See attached Spreadsheet No. 1 for a breakdown of the costs.
- **Re-set of Sidewalk paving Stones along Scott Street** – Based on my inspection of the 200 & 300 blocks of Scott Street, there are several damaged stones, a lot of surface discontinuities that exceed the two centimeter tolerance (See attached minimum maintenance standard for municipal highways section 16.1- sidewalk surface discontinuities) and several areas where water ponds on top of the stones.

It is my understanding the red stones were originally installed in the mid-1990's and in order to reset these stones the entire north and south side of Scott Street in the 200 & 300 blocks must be lifted. There is approximately 2646 square meters where it will take 4 men approximately 2.5 to 3 months to complete this work. This work will involve retaining a contractor where it is estimated that it will cost \$125 per square meter to complete this work or \$330,750. This is a labour intensive project with a substantial cost. It is suggested that this project be evaluated during the 2016 budget process. The common practice over the last couple of years in regards to sidewalk surface discontinuities is the engineering department within the O & F division inspects all of the Town's concrete sidewalks where all surface discontinuities exceeding the 20 mm tolerance are marked with highly visible orange paint. In regards to the Scott Street paving stone sidewalks and the waterfront stone sidewalks this practice was not followed as the appearance of orange paint is considered to be a negative appearance to downtown customers & tourists.

See attached two letters dated August 12, 2015 from Shelly Wepruk, secretary of the Downtown Scott Street BIA organization. While the Town wants to ensure the downtown infrastructure is maintained to a high standard and is in a state of good repair, some of the BIA requests should probably be completed by the BIA organization. There is a perception that the Town's workforce is favoring this organization where other business/property owners who don't receive this level of service.

The Operations & Facilities Executive Committee recommends the following;

- 1) That the request for in-kind services be deferred at this time in order that a meeting can be scheduled between the BIA Organization and the Operations and Facilities Executive committee.

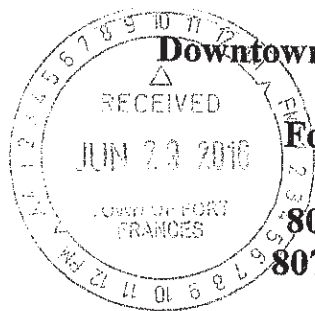
Respectfully submitted,



Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager

f/n: 2015BIARquest

<p>Council approval of this report will ensure that the request for in-kind services be deferred at this time in order that a meeting can be scheduled between the BIA Organization and the Operations and Facilities Executive committee.</p>



Downtown Scott Street B.I.A.
335 Scott Street
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 1H1
807-274-7502 Phone
807-274-0783 Fax

12:29
June 29/16
WK

29 July 2016

Mr. Travis Rob
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, Ontario

Dear Travis

RE: Tree Removal

We will be requiring your assistance in removing a nuisance tree on Scott Street.

It is located at 318 Scott Street. It has invaded the crawl space of the premises and is causing water problems and the roots have perforated the sidewalk and are causing a tripping hazard. We are asking for the standard tree removal method of cutting it down and killing it via diesel fluid.

Your immediate attention to it's removal would be greatly appreciated.

Yours

Shelley Wepruk
Secretary