

Report to Council

Report Title: Trimming of Trees on Municipal Right-of-Way
Prepared By: Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
Department: Operations
Date: April 25, 2023
Report Number: PW2023-10 **File Number:** C11PW
Attachments: Letter from Resident

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives report Number PW2023-10 -Trimming of trees on Municipal Right-of-Way, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

In preparing the 2023 municipal budget, Brockton operations staff included roadside maintenance as a necessary item that required completion. Roadside maintenance in this particular case included the “brushing” or the trimming of trees and the removal of smaller trees and shrubbery within the right-of-way, owned and for the most part, maintained by the municipality. Utilizing an industry standard procedure, an independent contractor was hired to perform the brushing operation, at locations as directed by municipal staff.

Analysis:

In seeing the operation underway, residents lodged multiple complaints with municipal staff and members of council and were generally unhappy with the results being seen on the roadside. Staff followed up with the complaints and reassured members of the public that it is indeed not the standard practice to harm trees to the extent that was being reported. Operations staff have cleaned up the debris that was scattered in areas where the homeowner cut the grass up to the edge of the roadway, or where it was noted may be a concern to travellers. In addition, each day after and during operations, the roadway was cleared and maintained in a safe condition.

Trimming and brushing operations will continue in future years to ensure our roadways, ditches and infrastructure are maintained in such a way as to prolong the life of the infrastructure. Moving forward, staff

will ensure that the proper equipment is being utilized and that the operator is properly trained in the trimming and brushing of natural growth within the municipal right-of-way.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer