



TOWN OF GIBSONS MEMORANDUM

TO Mayor and Council

FROM Dave Newman, Director of Infrastructure Services

DATE March 22, 2021

SUBJECT Tree damage in ESA- Block 7

The following provides a summary of the subject matter in the context of the Tree Preservation Bylaw.

Town of Gibsons (Town) staff met Taurus Consulting on Block 7 on November 16th, 2020 to understand next steps for the project. At that meeting staff advised that, prior to any tree cutting in Development Permit Areas, a tree cutting permit notice would be issued for posting on site, conveying to the public that the trees were being removed with the Town's knowledge and permission, and that Diamond Head Consulting Ltd. (DHC) must be on site in accordance with Development Permit 2019-08 Environmental (DP-2019-08).

Town staff met Taurus Consulting and DHC on Block 7 on December 21st, 2020 to develop a plan for the remaining tree cutting on site. At that meeting, it was determined that tree cutting had commenced without DHC on site in accordance with DP-2019-08 and without a confirmation of the trees to be cut or the relevant tree cutting permit being posted on site. A stop work order was subsequently issued by the Director of Planning.

The site was revisited by DHC on January 18, 2021 with an updated survey to determine the extent of the clearing that had occurred. It was then established that no trees within the ESA or planned park had been removed. However, damage to three trees was observed within the ESA as detailed below.

- Two trees along the ESA edge by the planned townhouse lot showed minor signs of damage; DHC has recommended that the damaged trees be retained and monitored at future site visits.
- One felled tree was hung up on a protected tree within the ESA, causing some minor scarring. DHC comments that this can be mitigated by completing the falling of the hung up tree.

According to the Tree Preservation Bylaw, the Town will fine the Owner as follows:

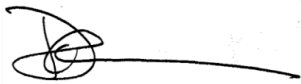
Fines	Qty	Unit Cost	Total
FINE – Damage a Protected Tree	3	\$300	\$900

It is understood by all parties that:

- No additional tree removal is to occur until the stop work order has been lifted;
- Any further Tree cutting on Block 7 will require a tree cutting permit. This requirement has been extended to any further tree removal in either DPA 1 or 2;
- DHC must be contacted prior to the start of any further tree removal to determine the monitoring requirements;
- DHC will determine trees in conflict with proposed infrastructure that require removal, and retention requirements for trees that can be retained;
- There are additional Development Permit requirements regarding blasting, installation of fencing, and geotechnical measures. These activities must proceed only under DHC supervision to ensure that the existing trees and understory vegetation in the ESA are protected from further development impacts.

As work on the site is planned to progress at a steady rate on the site from the beginning of 2021, staff are now meeting every two weeks with the Gospel Rock team. Staff have conveyed to the Team that Council would appreciate an update directly from the developer or their delegate which Greenlane Homes have committed to doing. Staff are currently establishing an appropriate date for this meeting and will report to Council as to proposed dates and times.

Respectfully,



Dave Newman
Director of infrastructure Services

cc: Emanuel Machado, CAO
Lesley-Anne Staats, Director of Planning
Michelle Lewis, Natural Asset Technician
Sue Booth, Bylaw Enforcement Officer