



Motion

Re: Tree Cover in Chatham-Kent

“Whereas the municipality of Chatham-Kent recognizes the significance of tree cover as an important part of a balanced and healthy ecosystem.

And whereas the municipality of Chatham-Kent has less than six per cent natural cover, including trees, wetlands, grassland and pollinator habitat, the lowest percentage for an upper tier municipality in Ontario.

And whereas it is important ecologically to reduce fragmentation of such cover and increase wildlife corridors and wherever possible establish grass buffer strips to keep soil on the land and out of our drains and waterways.

And whereas we believe there is a role the municipality can play in partnering and consulting with conservation groups, community partners and private landowners.

Be it therefore resolved that council direct municipal staff to prepare a report with the aim of:

- a) Planting a minimum of one million trees within four years.**
- b) Identifying public lands than can be used to support this initiative**
- c) Identifying best practices from other municipalities on this subject**
- d) Identifying ways to incentivize land owners to plant and maintain tree cover and other natural habitat**
- e) Identifying any potential community partners who can help the municipality achieve its goal**

This report is to be prepared for the November 18th meeting of council.

Signed: Councillor Anthony Ceccacci

Notice Given On: October 7, 2019