



## Motion

Re: Amendment to Long Grass and Weed By-law for Naturalization Activities

**Chatham-Kent's Long Grass and Weed Bylaw (Bylaw # 56-2020) was introduced to implement a minimum outdoor landscaping maintenance standard that prohibits overgrown grasses and weeds on private properties. Similar to long grass bylaws in other communities, Chatham-Kent's Bylaw maintains community aesthetics and prevents landscape abandonment. The bylaw applies to all grass and weed species listed in the Government of Ontario's Publication 505 'Ontario Weeds' and requires that they be kept under 20cm in height through regular mowing, or be subject to enforcement.**

**However, it is also a community strategic objective to enhance natural areas in the Municipality and there is a conflict that exists with the long grass bylaw in meeting these objectives. Specifically, there are challenges that the current grass cutting bylaw poses with respect to legitimate tall grass prairie environmental naturalization activities on private lands and despite the positive intent of the bylaw, the way it is currently written can be used to reverse these environmental stewardship activities that the Municipality has otherwise identified as desirable.**

**Therefore, be it resolved that Administration prepare a report with recommendations on how the bylaw could be altered so that it maintains its initial policy intent while also recognizing the community benefits realized through appropriate naturalization activities."**

Signed: Councillor Trevor Thompson

Notice Given On: August 10, 2020