

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
RAVEN ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025**

Committee Members: L. Hanson (Chair), P. Baudin, A. Gallet, C. van der Vorm, M. Warner, and Councillor P. Lambur attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall. Absent: C. Castro and E. Grdina.

Staff: J. Bailey, Director, Planning, Development & Environment Services; H. Keith, Senior Manager, Climate Action & Environment (Staff Representative); S. Louie, Manager, Environmental Protection; and C. Monaghan, Climate Action Coordinator (Committee Clerk) attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the June 3, 2025 Environment Committee meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the May 6, 2025 Environment Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORTS / ITEMS

4. Progress Update on the Urban Forest Management Plan

Staff provided a presentation on the progress update on the Urban Forest Management Plan and answered Committee questions.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The impact of the Provincial housing targets (to increase density on lots) on the urban forest and canopy cover targets;
- Whether a 1% increase in tree canopy cover is attainable given the level of development in some neighbourhoods;

- The ratio of tree replacement to tree removals, the size of trees protected under the bylaw, and trees that can be removed without a permit;
- The effectiveness of the current tree diameter size that is protected under the Tree Bylaw;
- Enforcement mechanisms for non-compliance of the Tree Bylaw;
- Challenges of long-term monitoring to ensure that trees are retained following construction; and
- Methods for monitoring and tracking tree canopy cover.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT

1. the progress update on the Urban Forest Management Plan be received for information;
2. the Environment Committee endorse the proposed bylaw changes to respond to Council's direction to the implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan; and
3. this endorsement be forwarded to Council by forming part of a staff report on the proposed bylaw changes to be brought forward for consideration at an upcoming open Council meeting.

CARRIED

(Members A. Gallet and C. van der Vorm opposed)

Committee members commented regarding the proposed addition of a new part to the resolution just passed.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT in addition to the resolution passed by the Committee at its June 3, 2025 meeting as follows:

THAT

1. *the progress update on the Urban Forest Management Plan be received for information;*
2. *the Environment Committee endorse the proposed bylaw changes to respond to Council's direction to the implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan; and*
3. *this endorsement be forwarded to Council by forming part of a staff report on the proposed bylaw changes to be brought forward for consideration at an upcoming open Council meeting.*

the Environment Committee be provided a yearly update on the implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan.

CARRIED

5. **Proposed Amendment to 2025 Environment Committee Meeting Schedule**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the 2025 Environment Committee Meeting Schedule be amended by rescheduling the September 2, 2025 meeting to 4:30 p.m. on September 9, 2025 and held in-person in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

CARRIED

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A. George (member of the public) questioned how the 52% tree canopy target compares to other municipalities on the North Shore, how so many trees school properties are being removed, and if single-family properties must retain their tree density if they are already exceeding the target.

N. Yaraee (member of the public) questioned if permits are granted to cut native trees and plant non-native species, and whether Tree Canada grants have been pursued. N. Yaraee also noted the need for a list of native tree species to the West Coast to better educate the community.

M. Warner left the meeting at 5:31 p.m. and returned at 5:33 p.m.

N. Tsangarakis (member of the public) questioned if the recommendations for Council should move beyond tree planting/replacement requirements to address the root cause of tree loss from cutting down trees to redevelop properties.

T. Reinsch (member of the public) questioned if the District knows how many trees are being cut down, and the number of protected trees greater than 75 cm DBH.

A. George (member of the public) spoke a second time and questioned if the tree canopy cover monitoring used LiDAR data, and what authority the District has over school properties.

N. Tsangarakis (member of the public) spoke a second time and noted a gap in the current strategy, reaffirming the need to protect smaller diameter trees, and warned without rules in place more lots will be cleared of trees during construction as it's less costly than trying to work around trees. N. Tsangarakis also noted that there are no incentives for homeowners to retain trees on their lots, and that residents would agree to increased regulations to protect trees.

D. Reinsch (member of the public) expressed his frustration that the Committee passed the resolution on item #4 before public questions; he also noted that he thought many people did not actually complete replanting requirements to get their security deposit returned; and also noted other issues of non-compliance with the Tree Bylaw including arborists not on site monitoring during construction, permits not being posted, and hazardous materials within tree protection barriers.

N. Yaraee (member of the public) spoke a second time and commented that the root cause is that most people don't know what to do, and the solution lies in informed actions (i.e. architects designing around trees).

J. Jordan (member of the public) questioned whether tree protection could be based on canopy height as another approach.

T. Reinsch (member of the public) spoke a second time and questioned why 75 cm DBH was selected as the tree protection size when the bylaw was first established.

A. Gallet (Committee member) questioned if the tree protection size should be reduced over time to protect more trees to reflect trees being planted and older trees being removed.

L. Hanson (Committee Chair) commented that the basis of the proposed bylaw amendments is the assumption that planted trees survive, and questioned if arborists give guidance on what homeowners should do.

D. Reinsch (member of the public) spoke a second time and noted that tree protection barriers are needed for all retained trees.

L. Hanson (Committee Chair) spoke a second time and questioned who is responsible to enforce compliance, explaining that a better outcome would be obtained if developers follow all protocols. L. Hanson also noted the responsibility of the professional preparing plans and completing inspections.

A. George (member of the public) spoke again and noted that it seems like some community members do not feel well received when reporting incidences to staff.

D. Reinsch (member of the public) spoke again and noted his expectation that bylaw enforcement respond when an issue is reported and questioned if some permits are hidden.

J. Jordan (member of the public) spoke a second time and questioned the hierarchy of the most dominant area trees are removed (i.e. developers, homeowners, etc.).

7. NEXT MEETING

Staff confirmed that the next Environment Committee meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. and held in-person in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

8. ADJOURNMENT

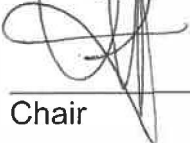
It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the June 3, 2025 Environment Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Committee Clerk