



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	December 12, 2019
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	PDR-CW-01-20
<b>Title:</b>	Sherk Minor Exemption Application
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Sarah Johnson
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Randy Scherzer
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	Township of Southgate
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW10-20; Endorsed by County Council January 9, 2020 per Resolution CC13-20;

## Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-01-20 be received and that the application for a Minor Exemption under the County's Forest Management By-law for 086682 Southgate Road 08, Lot 39, Concession 4, in the geographic Township of Proton, Township of Southgate, be approved as revised.

## Executive Summary

The County received a minor exemption application to the County's Forestry Management By-law in September 2019 to clear two pockets of forested land consisting of 23 acres (9.3 hectares) of small shrubs and scattered trees. The purpose of the land clearing is for farming purposes. Our By-law enforcement officer has recommended approval with an amended area for clearing. County staff are recommending approval of the revised area.

## Background and Discussion

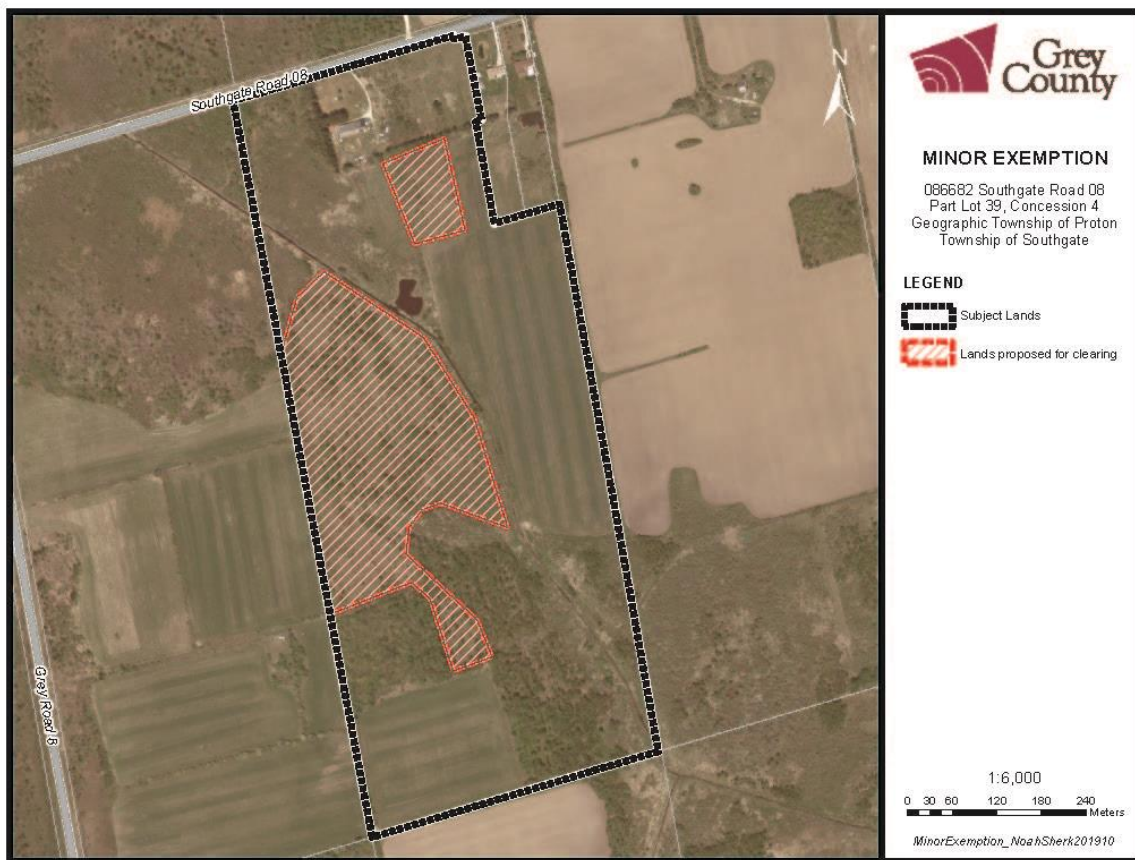
An application for a minor exemption was received for clear cutting under the County's Forestry Management By-law.

The subject lands are located at 086682 Southgate Road 08, Lot 39, Concession 4, in the geographic Township of Proton, Township of Southgate. The lands have frontage on Southgate Road 08. In total, the farm holdings at this location are approximately 95 acres (38.4 hectares) in size. The cleared portions of this property are actively farmed.

The property is located in the most south easterly portion of the County with Shelburne located approximately 14.5 kilometres to the east of the subject property. Surrounding the subject lands are a mixture of farmed and forested lands.

In the County Official Plan this property is designated as 'Rural', 'Hazard Lands', and 'Agricultural'. Appendix B to the Plan also identifies pockets of 'Significant Woodlands', 'Other Identified Wetlands', and a watercourse on the property.

The original request was for a total 23 acres to be cleared, and approximately 2 acre parcel near the front of the property and a larger parcel (21 acres) on the west side (see Map 1). After the application was circulated and comments were received modifications were made and the amount of the western parcel was reduced to approximately 14 acres (see Map 2).



Map 1 – Original Forest Clearing Request



## Map 2 – Proposed Revised Clearing

### Agency and Public Comments Received

Under the Forest Management By-law, adjacent landowners, conservation authorities, Municipal, and County staff are to be notified and/or consulted when an application is received.

### Public Comments

No public comments were received during the processing of this application.

### Agency Comments

The Township of Southgate, and the County's Forestry By-law Enforcement Officer provided comments on this application. GRCA did not provide comments.

The comment received from the County's Forest Manger indicated that due to wetlands and connectivity to a larger woodland, he could not support the original request and proposed the modified version as shown in Map 2 above. The applicant consented to the modification and that is what is being presented for approval.

The Township indicated that they did not have any comment related to this application.  
County staff are recommending approval of the revised minor exemption application.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

The application will be processed in accordance with the County's Forest Management By-law.

## Financial and Resource Implications

At this time there are no expected financial or resource considerations beyond those normally encountered in processing a Minor Exemption application. The County has received an application fee with the file.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Planning and Grey County By-law Enforcement Officer
- External: Township of Southgate, Grand River Conservation Authority, and the public.

## Appendices and Attachments

*None*