



Committee Report

To:	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 13, 2020
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CW-08-20
Title:	Woods Minor Exemption Application
Prepared by:	Sarah Johnson
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Township of Southgate
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW40-20; Endorsed by County Council February 27, 2020 per Resolution CC30-20;

Recommendation

- 1. That Report PDR-CW-08-20 be received and that the application for a Minor Exemption under the County's Forest Management By-law for 043836 Southgate Road 04, Lot 8, Concession 5, in the geographic Township of Egremont, Township of Southgate, be approved.**

Executive Summary

The County received a minor exemption application to the County's Forestry Management By-law in November 2019 to clear a 40 foot (12 metre) wide strip of forested land consisting of mainly cedar trees. The purpose of the land clearing is for farming purposes (tile drain). County staff are recommending approval.

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 043836 Southgate Road 04, Lot 8, Concession 5, in the geographic Township of Egremont, Township of Southgate. The lands have frontage on Southgate Road 04. In total, the farm holdings at this location are approximately 71 acres (28.7 hectares) in size. The cleared portions of this property are actively farmed. The area proposed to be cleared for tile draining purposes, is an existing overgrown lane, it will be cleaned up and widened to 40 feet as part of this application.

The property is located in the most southern portion of the County with Mount Forest located approximately 3.5 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 'Hazard Lands', and 'Agricultural' on Schedule A. Schedule B identifies portion of Aggregate Resource Area on the subject lands, but not where the trees are proposed to be cut. Appendix B to the Plan also identifies pockets of 'Significant Woodlands', 'Other Identified Wetlands', and a watercourse on the property.



Map 1 – Forest Clearing Request

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, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the County's Forestry By-law Enforcement Officer provided comments on this application.

The Township indicated that they did not have any comment related to this application.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority indicated that provided the plan submitted with the application is followed, the minor exemption is acceptable.

The comment received from the County's Forest Manager indicated that he fully supports the proposal.

County staff are recommending approval of the 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, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, and the public.

Appendices and Attachments

None