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| To: | Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council |
| Committee Date: | November 22, 2018 |
| Subject / Report No: | Forest By-law Minor Exemption /PDR-CW-39-18 |
| Title: | Owen Martin |
| Prepared by: | Stephanie Lacey-Avon |
| Reviewed by: | Randy Scherzer |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | Municipality of Grey Highlands |
| Status: | Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW281-18; |

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-39-18 be received and that the application for a Minor Exemption under the County's Forest Management By-law for Lot 37, Concession 8 (427066 8th Concession), in the geographic Township of Artemesia, Municipality of Grey Highlands, be approved.

Executive Summary

The County has received a minor exemption application to the County's Forest Management By-law to clear two pockets of forested land consisting of cedar and thorn trees, spanning roughly 0.64 acres (0.25 hectares). The purpose of the clearing is to convert the subject lands to farming field for cash crop purposes. County staff are recommending approval of the minor exemption application.

Background and Discussion

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

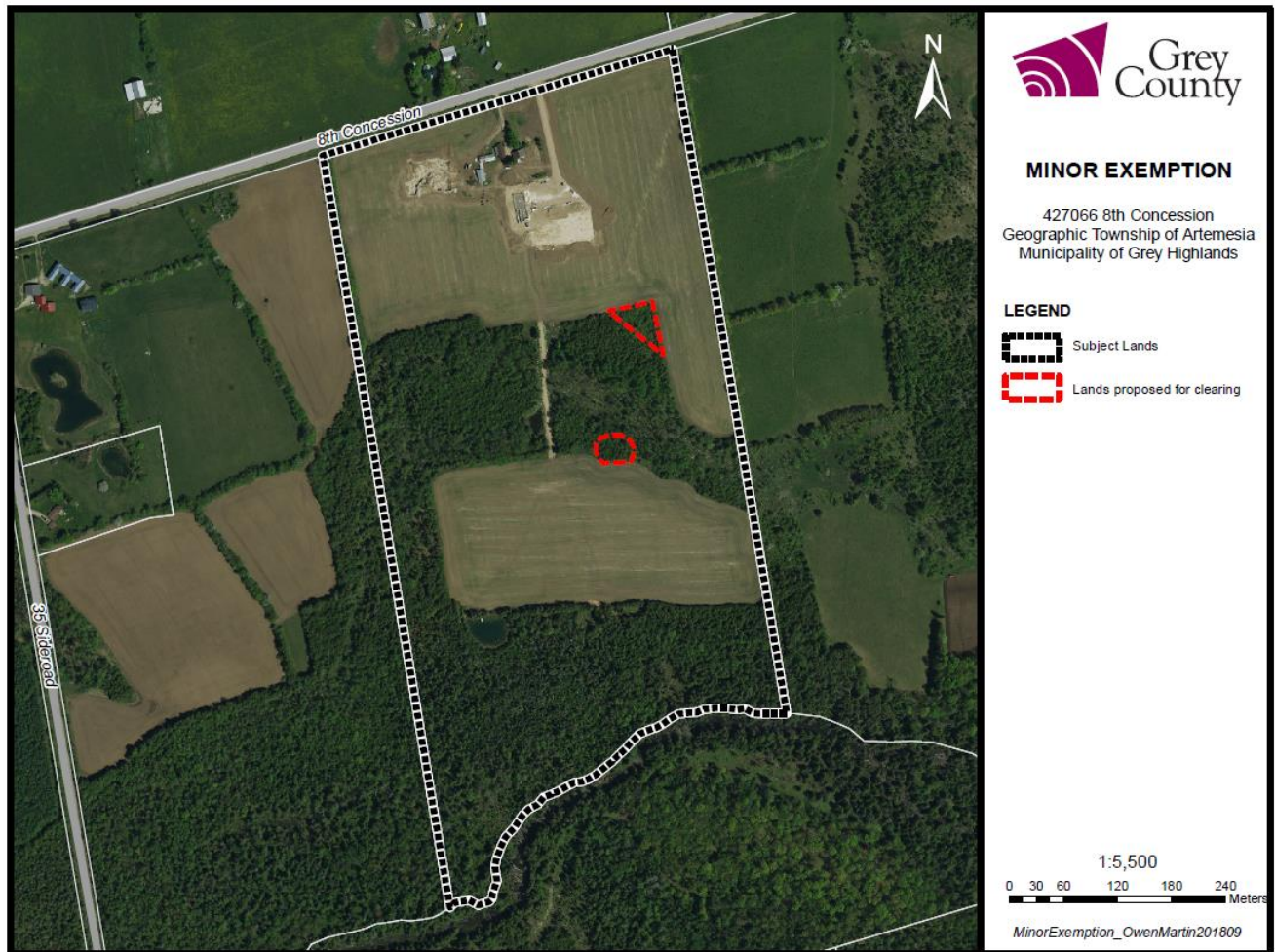
The subject lands are located at Lot 37, Concession 8 (427066, 8th Concession), in the geographic Township of Artemesia, Municipality of Grey Highlands. The lands have frontage onto 8th Concession road, and the lands are roughly 76 acres (30 hectares) in size.

In proximity to the proposed lands to be cleared and on the southern portion of the subject property, the County Official Plan designates 'Significant Wetlands' and 'Hazard Lands', while

the remainder of the lands are designated 'Agricultural'. The County plan also identifies 'Significant Woodlands' and 'Other Identified Wetlands' on the subject property.

Surrounding the subject lands are predominantly farm lands, with some woodlands and wetlands.

The subject application was circulated to the Municipality of Grey Highlands, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority staff, the County's Forest By-law Enforcement Officer, and neighboring landowners.



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 Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA), the Municipality of Grey Highlands, and the County's Forest By-law Enforcement Officer provided comments on this application.

GSCA staff provided comments October 5th, 2018. Staff noted in the letter that the proponent would not require a permit from the Conservation Authority office under Ontario Regulation 151/06. The proposed tree removal was outside of the Provincially Significant Wetland feature. Conservation staff had no further concerns with the subject application given the relatively minor nature of the removal.

The Municipality of Grey Highlands shared the application with municipal council for information, and there were no comments or concerns.

Grey County's Forest By-law Enforcement Officer had no issues with the subject application.

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: Municipality of Grey Highlands, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and the public.

Appendices and Attachments

None