



Committee Report

To:	Warden Milne and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 9, 2023
Subject / Report No:	Minor Exemption / PDR-CW-09-23
Title:	Samuel Bowman Minor Exemption Application
Prepared by:	Natalie Mechalko
Reviewed by:	Scott Taylor
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Municipality of Grey Highlands
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW29-23; Endorsed by County Council February 23, 2023, per Resolution CC19-23.

Recommendation

1. That report PDR-CW-09-23 be received, and
2. That the application for a Minor Exemption under the County's Forest Management By-law for 773274 Highway 10, Lot 187 and 188, Concession 1, in the geographic Township of Artemesia, Municipality of Grey Highlands, be approved.

Executive Summary

The County received a minor exemption application to the County's Forest Management By-law in October 2022 to clear a pocket of trees consisting of approximately 2.6 acres (1 hectare) of pine, tamarack, spruce and poplar. The purpose of the clearing is for agriculture land. Our By-law Enforcement Officer has recommended approval and there are no outstanding public or agency concerns. County staff are recommending approval.

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 186 and 188, 773274 Highway 10, in the geographic Township of Artemesia, Municipality of Grey Highlands. In total, there are 13 hectares of Woodlands on this property and the property is 39 hectares in size. Portions of the property are currently farmed.

Proton Station is located approximately one kilometre to the west of the subject property. Surrounding the subject lands are a mixture of farmed and forested lands, with some non-farm residential lots.

In the County Official Plan, this property is designated as 'Rural' and 'Hazard Lands'. Appendix B to the Plan identifies a wetland on the property.

This application initially proposed three pockets of treed areas for clearing. The Grey County By-law Enforcement Officer did not support the clearing of two out of the three treed areas due these areas being healthy plantations that provide wildlife habitat. The application was amended to a request to clear the 2.6-acre pocket of trees.

Map 1 – Initial Forest Clearing Request



Map 2 – Amended 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 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA), the Municipality of Grey Highlands, and the County's Forestry By-law Enforcement Officer provided comments on this application. SVCA has no objection to the application.

The Forestry By-law Enforcement Officer and the Municipality of Grey Highlands have no concerns with the amended 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, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, and the public.

Appendices and Attachments

None