

COMMUNICATION 130213

Received From: Pascal Meunier, Director of Protective Services
Dave Young, Director of Public Works
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: November 26, 2019
Topic: Parking By-law Amendment

SUMMARY

In February 2019, Councillor Seccaspina made a notice of motion with respect to a longstanding, on-street parking issue in the Town of Carleton Place. Due to narrow streets and significant population growth, there is increased traffic throughout the Town. After researching the issue, it was determined that to better manage parking and to ensure safety concerns are addressed in certain neighbourhoods, staff proposes that for some streets, parking only be permitted on one side of the street and for the narrowest streets, parking on both sides be prohibited. It is important to note this will only apply to narrow streets where there are clear safety concerns with allowing on-street parking. Many of the wider streets will continue to have parking on both sides.

BACKGROUND

Over the last decade, Carleton Place has seen significant growth. With this growth has come a significant increase in traffic. Many streets in Carleton Place are not wide enough to facilitate parking on both sides of the street without safety issues such as low visibility, sufficient space for traffic and limited or inadequate space for the movement of emergency vehicles and snow removal equipment. This is creating a serious safety hazard as emergency vehicles need to respond to scenes as quickly as possible with little interference and snow removal equipment needs to be able to clear streets for the safe movement of traffic.

In recent years, there have been situations where cars have parked on both sides of narrow streets, blocking fire trucks from responding to emergency calls. Serious time is lost when fire trucks need to back up and find alternate routes to an emergency scene. This is also stressful for first responders who are trying to do their jobs as efficiently as possible.

Snow plow operators are also challenged during the winter months to clear snow due to vehicles parking on both sides of narrow streets. Attempting to maneuver heavy equipment around vehicles is difficult and time consuming and also poses a liability if damage to vehicles occurs.

Further, we often receive complaints from residents who live on the more narrow streets and cannot exit their driveways or make it through an area when cars are parked on both sides of their street.

Having street parking on one side of the street or in some instances no on-street parking on some of the narrower and busier streets in Town will reduce hazards and provide easier access for emergency vehicles and snowplows.

DISCUSSION

Town staff visited each street in Town to analyze which side of the road allowed for more parking and chose the opposite side to implement the parking prohibition. Generally, though not in every case, the side of the street with fire hydrants was selected for No Parking which would not impede emergency response efforts when they are needed. In some instances, we had to recommend no parking on both sides of the street to ensure access for a fire truck due to the width of some streets. Attached to this report is the proposed amended by-law detailing the streets where we recommend no parking or parking only on one side.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implications tied to the approval of this by-law.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT a By-law to amend parking on some Town streets to one side of the street or no on-street parking be forwarded to Council for approval.