



Town of Newmarket
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Hewitt Circle Parking Review Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2021-61

Department(s): Engineering Services

Author(s): M. Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services

Meeting Date: September 13, 2021

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Hewitt Circle Parking Review dated September 13, 2021 be received; and,
2. That the parking amendments noted in Appendix B be approved; and,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to outline the study findings and public consultation for the parking review of the south leg of Hewitt Circle, west of Plantation Gate to the first bend, between house numbers 486 to 490, as shown on the map in Appendix A.

Background

Back in 2007, staff conducted a larger review of the curved section of Hewitt Circle, which resulted in the adoption of parking restrictions. As this was fourteen years ago, a review is advisable. At its regular meeting of May 10, 2021, Town Council asked staff to review the parking on this section of Hewitt Circle, and adopted the following recommendation:

That Staff be directed to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of parking restrictions on Hewitt Circle between house numbers 486 to 490.

Since the study was initiated through a Council request for a specific location, and there was not the benefit of a petition to describe support from households on the street, Town

staff looked at a slightly broader study area that included the south leg of Hewitt Circle (south of the Woodhaven Court intersection with Plantation Gate) from Plantation Gate to the first bend to determine community opinions and needs. Community input was sought to clarify what the majority of immediately surrounding neighbourhood residents would prefer in term so f parking restrictions for the study area.

Discussion

As noted above, the study area was enlarged to take into consideration the households that would be impacted by a change in parking restrictions. Currently, from Plantation Gate to the first bend (south leg of Hewitt Circle, south of the intersection of Plantation Gate and Woodhaven Court), there are approximately 2 on-street parking spaces on the north side, and about 3 or 4 parking spaces on the south side (see map in Appendix A). Because there are no marked parking spaces, the number of spaces is being estimated by the distance available for cars to park.

In this parking study, 11 households were contacted by individual mailed letters dated June 23, 2021, requesting the residents' input on the matter. The Town received 4 replies, of which 2 wanted No Parking on both sides, 1 wanted No Parking only on the south side, and 1 wanted no changes. There was no consensus to support any specific option.

Residents in the study area will be contacted a second time, to advise them of the findings of the study and to invite more feedback through an invitation to depute at the Committee of the Whole meeting at which this matter will be heard. As a result, all households within the study area will receive a copy of this report and a notice indicating the date and time for an opportunity to provide further comment.

Given that there is restricted visibility when cars are parked adjacent to driveways, especially with larger vehicles or any that are improperly parked, it is recommended that parking on the north side of this section of road be restricted. However, in order to allow additional parking to compensate for any loss, staff recommends shifting the existing south side No Parking zone slightly to the west. This will provide better visibility while possibly adding a few more parking spaces. The changes being recommended are shown in the map in Appendix A.

Conclusion

In order to enhance operational safety while still providing parking, it is recommended that the existing parking restrictions be amended to create a new No Parking zone on the north side, and that an adjustment to the existing No Parking zone on the south side be made to allow for better traffic operations and potentially more on-street parking. The proposed changes to the Parking By-Law are shown in Appendix B.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Well-planned and connected... strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from, and within Newmarket.

Consultation

Town staff reached out by mail to consult 11 households that would be impacted by any parking changes. Each of the 11 households received a letter, dated June 23, 2021, requesting their input. The purpose was to solicit any comments. The Town received 4 responses, of which 2 wanted parking restrictions added on both sides, one wanted parking restrictions added on the south side, and the fourth wanted no changes.

To further communicate the findings and invite more feedback, all households within the study area will receive a copy of this report and a notice indicating the date and time of the Committee of the Whole at which the matter will be heard. Residents who wish to address the Committee will have the opportunity to do so at that time.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

Funds for the required signage would come from the Regulatory Signs – Engineering line from the Operating Budget. The cost would be approximately \$500.00 for the required signage. There is sufficient money in this account to cover the cost.

Attachments

Appendix A – Existing and proposed parking zones

Appendix B- Parking Bylaw amendments

Approval

Rachel Prudhomme, M.Sc., P.Eng.,
Director, Engineering Services

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.,
Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Contact

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