

December 3, 2021

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

As some of you know, volunteers in the community group THRIVE prepared a White Paper on Climate Change several weeks ago which we submitted to Council. We included a proposal for a pilot tree-planting project that involves purchasing 36" saplings, hiring students, and tracking both where the trees are planted, residents' feedback, and viability of the trees. We contacted nurseries and were told that it was necessary to reserve saplings in December in order to secure the best price and an adequate supply. As a result, we delegated at the November 8th Council Meeting and asked for \$6000 to purchase the saplings before year-end. An almost unanimous Council approved the motion and we committed to working with the Environment Committee to coordinate resources and planning.

Since November 8th, at the suggestion of acting CAO Tony Haddad during the meeting, we reached out to various organizations in the private sector to see if additional funding could be secured. We are pleased to report that we have \$3000 in firm commitments, and very positive signs that Essex Powerlines will step up as a major sponsor. We are confident that we can raise funds to pay for the entire pilot project so that the Town will only be responsible for the \$6000 already committed.

We will elaborate on all of this information at Wednesday's meeting and answer any questions you might have. We are eager to get your feedback and expertise. In the meantime, we attach the White Paper for your review.

Warm regards,

Jasminka Kalajdzic & Lisa Porter

Att.