



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1

## Legislation Text

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### REQUEST FOR DECISION

**DATE:** October 29, 2020 Report No. DRC-20-007

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Design Review Committee

**FROM:** Trevor Parkes, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT:**

Development Permit Application - 876 Dunsmuir Road

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Esquimalt Design Review Committee [DRC] recommends to Council that the application for a Development Permit authorizing the form and character of the proposed development of four (4) stacked townhouse dwelling units as sited on the survey plans prepared by J.E. Anderson and Associates stamped "Received April 20, 2020", consistent with the architectural plans provided by Victoria Design Group., stamped "Received September 22, 2020", and the landscape plan by Greenspace Designs. stamped "Received September 22, 2020", detailing the development proposed to be located at 876 Dunsmuir Road [PID 001-586-971, Lot 77, Section 11, Esquimalt District, Plan 265], be forwarded to Council with a recommendation to either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application; and provide reasons for the recommendation.

**RELEVANT POLICY:**

Declaration of Climate Emergency

*Local Government Act*

Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2018, No. 2922

Zoning Bylaw, 1992, No. 2050

Parking Bylaw, 1992, No. 2011

Development Application Procedures and Fees Bylaw, No. 2791, 2012

Advisory Planning Commission Bylaw, 2012, No. 2792

Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw, 1997, No. 2175

**STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:**

This Request for Decision supports the following specific strategic objective:

Healthy, Livable and Diverse Community - Support community growth, housing, and development consistent with our Official Community Plan.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Appendix A: Site Plan, Colour Board, Architectural Drawings, BCLS Site Plan and Landscape Plan

Appendix B: Subject Property Map, Air Photo, OCP Land Use Designation Maps

Appendix C: DP Guideline Forms - DP Areas No. 1, 6, 7, 8 and 11

Appendix D: Bylaw No. 3000 - 876 Dunsmuir Road - CD 142

Appendix E: Green Building Checklist

Appendix F: Applicant's DRC Presentation

## **PURPOSE OF APPLICATION:**

The applicant is proposing four (4), stacked townhouse strata dwelling units, to be built in one building. Comprehensive Development District No. 142 of Esquimalt Zoning Bylaw 1992, No. 2050 [Appendix D] has been written to regulate this development.

Evaluation of this application should focus on issues respecting the form and character of the development, including landscaping, exterior design and finish of the buildings and other structures in relation to the relevant development permit area design guidelines. In addition, evaluation should focus on natural environment protection, energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, and water conservation in relation to the relevant development permit area guidelines.

## **CONTEXT:**

**Applicant/ Owner:** Jim Penner [0795531 B.C. Ltd., Inc. No. BC0795531]

**Designer:** Will Peerboom, Victoria Design Group

### **Surrounding Land Uses:**

North: Two Family Residential [RD-1]

South: Multiple Family Residential [Fourplexes] [RM-4]

West: Single Family Residential with Suite [RD-1]

East: Single Family Residential [RD-3]

**Zoning:** Comprehensive Development District No. 142 [CD No. 142]

**OCP Land Use Designation:** Townhouse Residential

## **OCP ANALYSIS:**

This site is located within Development Permit Area No. 1 - Natural Environment, Development Permit Area No. 6 - Multi-Family Residential, Development Permit Area No. 7 - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Development Permit Area No. 8 - Water Conservation and Development Permit Area No. 11 - West Bay.

A Development Permit is required to ensure that the application is generally consistent with the Development Permit Area guidelines contained within the Esquimalt Official Community Plan Bylaw,

2018, No. 2922 and this permit must be approved by Council and issued by staff prior to a Building Permit being approved for the construction of the building.

The applicant has submitted a document noting how the project responds to these guidelines [Appendix C].

#### OCP Section 18 Development Permit Area No. 1 - Natural Environment

##### *OCP 18.5.1 Lands Free of Development*

This site is well away from local waterways so these guidelines are not applicable (NA).

##### *OCP 18.5.2 Natural Features*

This site currently has a natural upward slope towards the north and is above the elevation of Dunsmuir Road. The applicant proposes limited excavation of the site but has also proposed retaining walls that meet Zoning Bylaw requirements to allow for construction of a more mildly sloped parking area and greenspace at the rear of the site.

##### *OCP Section 18.5.3 Biodiversity*

The proposed mix of trees and ornamental plantings has the potential to offer modest habitat for local native species. Any native soil that can be saved on site could assist with the successful establishment of native and ornamental plant species.

##### *OCP Section 18.5.4 Natural Environment*

Trees and vegetation will contribute to a positive urban environment, buffering noise levels, absorbing air pollution from traffic and providing shade for south face of the building. Lighting can be chosen and sited to minimize light pollution levels, while still providing for safe movement on site.

##### *OCP Section 18.5.5 Drainage and Erosion*

The proposed addition of trees and landscaped areas to the site should allow stormwater to percolate slowly into the soil. The CD-142 zone requires that not less than 25% of the total area of the parcel remain as permeable landscaping.

##### *OCP Section 18.5.7 Native Bird Biodiversity*

The proposed mix of species types and sizes should support the goal of increasing habitat for native bird populations. The larger native tree species will contribute to improved shelter for native birds as they grow.

#### OCP Section 19 - Development Permit Area No. 2 - Hazardous Conditions [Tsunami]

This site is not located within the latest identified tsunami inundation area.

#### OCP Section 23 - Development Permit Area No. 6 - Multi-Family Residential Guidelines

After initially proposing, at the rezoning stage, a design that was less sympathetic to the siting of existing streetscape, the applicant has demonstrated that fit with the neighbourhood in terms of size and siting of the building have been thoughtfully considered; as has privacy, and the pedestrian environment on Dunsmuir Road. The building all demonstrates 100% percent common wall overlap between units as well as complete overlap between the first and Second Floor units. The street

frontage elevation has been designed to present contemporary townhouse entrances to the street that are clearly identified and sheltered from the elements. There is a diverse mix plants species being proposed for the landscaping.

#### OCP Section 24 - Development Permit Area No. 7 - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

##### *24.5.1 Siting of buildings and structures*

The south facing building with substantial glazing will allow for notable solar gain for both heat and light. The siting and design of the building ensures useful open space with a south exposure is available to residents of all four units.

##### *24.5.2 Form and exterior design of buildings and structures.*

This building form, including shared walls improves potential energy conservation.

The proposed design includes useable outdoor amenity spaces on south facing decks, in the modest yards at the front of the building and on the rooftop decks for the upper unit residents.

##### *24.5.3 Landscaping*

The landscape plan appears to meet the intent of the guidelines in this section, while balancing the needs for on-site parking.

Visitor bicycle lockups are included in the rear common siting area.

##### *24.5.4 Machinery, equipment and systems external to buildings and other structures*

Electric Heat Pumps and HRV to provide heat control and circulation in each unit. Buildings will be built to BC Energy Step Code, Step 2. Building is constructed as Solar Ready for installation of photovoltaic solar panels in the future.

##### *24.5.5 Special Features*

Wood and durable building materials are being locally sourced, where feasible.

#### OCP Section 25 - Development Permit Area No. 8 - Water Conservation

##### *25.5.1 Building and Landscape Design*

Having a fairly compact three storey design allows more site area to be available for permeability. Zone requires that not less than 25% of the site be dedicated to landscaping.

##### *25.5.2 Landscaping - Select Plantings for Site and Local Conditions*

It appears that site conditions have been considered in the choice of plantings.

##### *25.5.3 Landscaping - Retaining Stormwater on Site (absorbent landscaping)*

Proposed landscaping includes use of permeable pavers to retain stormwater, plantings and trees that will slowly absorb water from each precipitation event and facilitate slow absorption, thereby lessening pressure on local stormwater systems.

##### *25.5.4 Landscaping - Water features and Irrigation systems*

Automated irrigation system is proposed.

OCP Section 28 - Development Permit Area No. 11 - West Bay

**28.5 -Residential Buildings**

All four units overlook Dunsmuir Road but are setback sufficiently to enjoy separation from street activity.

All four unit entrances are clearly defined and visible from the street and pedestrian connection to these entrances is intuitively designed.

All four main floor entrances are covered by the second floor sitting rooms that extend out over the exterior front porch. The entrances are further enhanced by the protection offered by the southern structural supports flanking the common porch which when combined with the pair of stairways flanking the raised planter bed create a focal point that identifies the common landing as the primary entrance to the building for all units.

Basement entry doors also protected from the elements by the main floor decks above and the sunken patios abutting both of these secondary entrances.

All off street parking is located behind the building ensuring that it appears as a minor element in the overall design when viewed from the street.

**ZONING AND PARKING ANALYSIS:**

The following chart summarizes many of the requirements contained within Comprehensive Development District No. 142 (Appendix D), which was created for this proposal.

	<b>CD-142 Zone</b> <b>876 Dunsmuir Road</b> (4 Townhouse Units)
<b>Floor Area Ratio</b>	0.67
<b>Minimum Unit Size</b>	110 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Minimum Parcel Size</b>	665 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Building Height</b>	9.0 m
<b>Lot Coverage</b>	40%
<b>Setbacks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Front</li><li>• Rear</li><li>• Side [Eastern]</li><li>• Side [Western]</li></ul>	6.0 m [4.8 m to raised planter] 9.2 m 2.4 m [1.8 m to pillar] 3.6 m [3.0 m to pillar]
<b>Off Street Parking</b>	1.25/ Unit - 5 spaces [1 Visitor]

As the parking spaces are located away from the street frontage they would appear as a minor use on this site.

**COMMENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS:**

The plans for this proposal were circulated to other departments and the following comments were received:

Building Inspection: No concerns. Construct to current BC Building Code and Municipal Building Regulation Bylaw, 2017, No. 2899. Subject to code and bylaw review at time of building permit application.

Engineering Services: Engineering has completed a preliminary review of the proposed development at 876 Dunsmuir Road. The developer should be aware that they may be required to provide Works and Services up to the road centre line. At a minimum new curb, gutter and along the frontage of the proposed development maybe required. The development is to have sewer, drain, catch basin and water service connections, as well as underground hydro, telephone, and cable. Additional review and comments will be provided upon receipt of detailed engineering drawings. All proposed Works and Services shall be as per Bylaw, 1997, No. 2175. The applicant is responsible for retaining the services of qualified professional for the design and construction supervision of all Works and Services, including construction costs, engineering fees, administrative fees and as indicated in Bylaw No. 2175.

Fire Services: Sprinklers will be required for this building as per Building Regulation Bylaw 2017, No. 2899.

Parks Services: Tree protection must be erected as needed in an effort to protect the trees located on the neighbouring properties.

## **ISSUES:**

### **1. Rationale for Selected Option**

Applicant is attempting to provide quality missing middle housing, and support the objectives of the OCP by complying with the development permit area guidelines.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

That the Esquimalt Design Review Committee [DRC] recommends to Council that the application for a Development Permit authorizing the form and character of the proposed development of four (4) stacked townhouse dwelling units be forwarded to Council with a recommendation to either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application; and provide reasons for the recommendation.