



Town of Swampscott

Department of Public Works

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The Department of Public Works conducted a Tree Hearing on Thursday, February 9, 2023. The Tree Hearing was held virtually at 2:00pm.

In Attendance: Gino Cresta Jr., Director of Public Works
Jim Olivetti, Tree Committee
Brian Drummond, Tree Committee
Richard Frenkel, Tree Committee
David Denune, 96 Shelton Road
Robert Bartolomeo, 84 Franklin Ave
Vladimir Konstantinosky, 94 Franklin Ave
Yelena Konstantinosky, 94 Franklin Ave
Stacey Zalanowski, 20 Shaw Road
Maryelaine Wood, 21 Shaw Road
Jeffrey Kaplan, 34 Walker Road
Martha Connor, 10 Maple Ave
Retired

Subject #1: The Bradford pear tree located at 96 Shelton Road (located on Priscilla Road). David Denune, 96 Shelton Road, requested the tree be removed due to concerns that it had lost its leaves prematurely and was otherwise an eyesore. Mr. Cresta stated that many trees throughout the town had lost their leaves prematurely this past year due to the drought that the town experienced. Additionally, Mr. Cresta stated his belief that, notwithstanding the premature leaf loss, the pear tree was otherwise healthy. Mr. Cresta complimented Mr. Denune on the upkeep of his property, but ultimately decided not to have the tree removed.

Subject #2: The Crimson King maple tree located at 84 Franklin Ave. Robert Bartolomeo, 84 Franklin Ave, spoke on behalf of the tree's removal believing it to be dead and needing to be replaced. Mr. Bartolomeo further stated that if the tree were to be removed, he would be willing to purchase a replacement. Mr. Cresta noted the tree was in fair condition with mushrooming starting to appear at the base. Jim Olivetti, Tree Committee member, stated that he was not opposed to the tree's removal considering that Mr. Bartolomeo was willing to donate a replacement. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

Subject #3: The Norway maple tree located at 88 Franklin Ave. Yelena Konstantinosky, 94 Franklin Ave, spoke on behalf of the tree's removal believing it was creating a hazard due to it having a large cavity at its base and that it was leaning at a 45-degree angle towards the street. Vladimir Konstantinosky, 94 Franklin Ave, also weighed in on his insistence that the tree be removed. Mr. Cresta noted that tree was exhibiting considerable decay at the base and that he had previously observed insect activity. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

Subject #4: The Norway maple tree located at 21 Shaw Road. Stacey Zalanowski, 20 Shaw Road, spoke on behalf of the tree's removal. Maryelaine Wood, 21 Shaw Road, also spoke in favor of the tree being removed believing it was creating a hazard due to it having recently lost several large branches. Mr. Cresta noted that tree had significant root decay, large deadwood, and saw dust at its base as a likely result of carpenter ant infestation. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

Subject #5: The Red maple tree located at 34 Walker Road (located on Outlook Road). Jeffrey Kaplan, 34 Walker Road, spoke on behalf of the tree's removal believing it was dead and would eventually fall on his house. Mr. Cresta noted that tree contained three leads and that two of them were dead and the third had substantial deadwood. Mr. Olivetti spoke in favor of the tree's removal, noting that the town should prioritize a replacement in the vicinity of the existing tree. Mr. Cresta read an email from Swampscott resident, Elana Zabar, stating her opposition to the tree being removed due to it being a native species and her belief that healthy trees had been cut down over the years. While taking into consideration Ms. Zabar's opposition to the trees removal and respecting the fact that she took the time to send the email,

Mr. Cresta considered the tree a risk and subsequently authorized its removal. Martha Connor, 10 Maple Ave, then spoke in support of the town saving as many trees as possible as she was concerned of the recent loss of trees in her surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Cresta informed Ms. Connor of the town's Tree Committee and their commitment to preserve a hearty tree canopy throughout the town.

Subject #6: The Norway maple tree located at 10 Clarke Road. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a request from the resident of 10 Clarke Road asking that the tree be evaluated due to it having lost many large leaders thus causing concern for the tree's health. Mr. Cresta remarked that there were two Norway maples located at this address and that the tree in question had some deadwood two small cavities. Although there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta stated that Clarke Road had lost two large trees recently and believed that the tree in question was relatively healthy. His recommendation was for the tree to be pruned of its existing deadwood and continued to be monitored.

Subject #7: The Silver maple tree located at 23 Suffolk Ave. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a request from the owner of the property at 23 Suffolk Ave asking that the tree be evaluated for viability due to a large cavity in the tree's trunk. Mr. Cresta commented that there was excessive sprouting at the base and lower canopy of the tree, and that the tree had recently lost a large limb. Mr. Cresta reiterated Ms. Zabar's opposition to the tree being removed due to it being a native species and her belief that healthy trees had been cut down over the years. Both Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Drummond spoke in favor of the tree's removal. After some deliberation, Mr. Cresta ultimately considered the tree a risk and subsequently authorized its removal.

Subject #8: The Norway maple tree located at 7 Outlook Road. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a request from the resident of 7 Outlook Road requesting that the tree be evaluated due to its poor condition. Mr. Cresta commented that the tree was haphazardly positioned between two driveways and that there was mechanical damage to the exposed root. Mr. Cresta further stated that he had a conversation with the resident, and the resident agreed to purchase two replacement trees if the tree were to be removed. Upon hearing the offer for replacement, both Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Drummond spoke in favor of the tree's removal. Affirming

that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

Subject #9: The Bradford pear tree located at 32 Norfolk Ave. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a request from the resident of 32 Norfolk Ave requesting that the tree be removed and replaced. Richard Frenkel, Tree Committee, shared a photo of the tree. Mr. Cresta stated that the tree's canopy was unbalanced over the road but otherwise relatively healthy. Mr. Olivetti objected to the tree's removal requesting that it continued to be monitored. Mr. Cresta believing the tree did not constitute a risk allowed the tree to remain standing.

Subject #10: The Silver maple tree located at 20 Highland Street. Mr. Cresta stated that he had received an email from Kevin and Stephanie Moriarty of 20 Highland Street stating that they could not attend the meeting but supported the tree's removal. The Moriarty's wrote that the upper portion of the tree was in rough shape for several years and now the base was rapidly deteriorating. Mr. Cresta commented that there were two dead leaders, one overhanging the street and the other overhanging the resident's property. Mr. Olivetti noted that he had spoken to the residents and supported removal. Mr. Drummond also supported removal. Mr. Cresta acknowledged that the Moriarty's would consider purchasing a replacement. Mr. Cresta once again repeated Ms. Zabar's opposition to the tree being removed due to it being a native species and her belief that healthy trees had been cut down over the years. After careful consideration, Mr. Cresta ultimately considered the tree a risk and subsequently authorized its removal.

Subject #11: The Norway maple tree located at 4 Francis Road. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a request from the resident of 4 Francis Road requesting that what was left of the tree be removed. Mr. Cresta noted that there was one lead and that the portion of the tree above the lead was hollow with a large split. Both Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Drummond said they did not oppose the tree's removal. Affirming that there was no other opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

Subject #12: The Norway maple tree located at 304 Forest Ave. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a request from the Town's Forestry Foreman asking that the tree be posted to the next tree hearing. Mr. Cresta stated that he had recently met with the resident of 304 Forest Ave to evaluate the tree. He observed the base of the tree to be at least 50% hollow

and thought the tree should be taken down as soon as possible. Both Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Drummond said they did not oppose the tree's removal. Affirming that there was no other opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

At 2:50 pm, Mr. Cresta made a motion to adjourn.