



Town of Swampscott

Department of Public Works

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The Department of Public Works conducted a Tree Hearing on Thursday, March 18, 2021. The Tree Hearing was held virtually at 2:00 pm.

In Attendance: Gino Cresta Jr., Director of Public Works
Gene Gardiner, Tree Warden, Forestry Foreman
Kelly Stevens, Deputy Tree Warden
Joan White
Henry and Claire Dembowski
Lauren Urbanczyk
Terry Baker
Ann Eskesen
Doreen Hodgkin
Jessica Donohue
John Green
Steve Deveau
Michael McGovern
Dylan Sellberg
Sheila Donovan
John and Colette Green
Sylvia Belkin

Subject #1: The Elm tree located at 33 Andrew Road, Tree ID #1944. The Public Works Office evaluated the tree due to a resident request from Larry and Karen Guelfo. Ms. Stevens noted the tree could show signs of insects but otherwise appears healthy and supported Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the tree to remain. Therefore, the tree will remain and be monitored.

Subject #2: The Silver Maple tree located at 39 Andrew Road, Tree ID #1950. The Public Works Office received a resident request for evaluation from the residents at 39 Andrew. Lauren Urbanczyk protested the removal of this tree but due Mr. Gardiner's evaluation that the tree is a hazard with large deadwood, dieback, and prior limb failures it was Mr. Cresta's decision the tree will be removed.

Subject #3: The Norway Maple located at 12 Bradlee Ave, Tree ID #336. The Public Works Office received a request to consider removing the tree from Laura Feinberg. National Grid spoke with Ms. Feinberg and advised her to contact the DPW because the tree appears to be a hazard. Mr. Gardiner noted that the tree is codominant with large deadwood and broken branches with wires running through canopy and suggested removal. The tree will be removed.

Subject #4: The Norway Maple tree located at 50 Puritan Lane, Tree ID #1092. The Public Works Office evaluated the tree due to a request from Margaret Lofgren. Ms. Stevens noted the falling deadwood, significant dieback, and crack in the trunk. Therefore, it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation, coinciding with the SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report, for the tree to be removed.

Subject #5: The Norway Maple located at 30 Stetson Ave, Tree ID #2858. The Public Works Office received a request from Patricia McBain requesting the tree be pruned and evaluated due to its unhealthy appearance. Mr. Gardiner's evaluation concluded the tree has lots of deadwood and is declining with prior branch failures. Mr. Gardiner's recommendation was for removal; therefore, the tree will be removed.

Subject #6: The Silver Maple located at Humphrey and Monument in Linscott Park, Tree ID #2916. The Public Works Office received a request from Swampscott Police requesting the tree be evaluated due to excessive decay. Mr. Gardiner's evaluation concluded the tree has a large open cavity with decay and a codominant crown. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report supported Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for removal. The tree will be removed.

Subject #7: The Northern Red Oak located at 4 Hawthorne Road, Tree ID #521. The Public Works Office received a request from Samuel and Abigail Bell for evaluation and suggested removal. The Bells provided a detailed Tree Risk Assessment Report from Maya Tree and Lawn Care that summarized a high likelihood of failure due to decay and dieback and suggested removal. Mr. Gardiner agreed with the conclusion that the tree should be removed. Lauren Urbanczyk protested the removal of this tree but due to the evidence of significant decay and third party and Town tree professionals' recommendations, the tree will be removed.

Subject #8: The American Linden tree located at 16 Nason Road, Tree ID #1220. The Public Works Office received a request for the tree be evaluated. Mr. Gardiner noted the tree is in fair condition and suggested to clean the deadwood as necessary. Therefore, the tree will remain.

Subject #9: The Norway Maple located at 126 Stetson Ave, Tree ID #2732. The Public Works Office received a request from Michael McGovern and Terry Baker to evaluate the tree and consider removal due to falling limbs. Mr. Gardiner recommends the tree remain but heavily prune and re-evaluate the tree in the next year. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report supports Mr. Gardiner's approach to monitor the tree. Therefore, it was Mr. Cresta's decision for the tree to remain.

Subject #10: The Red Oak located at 42 Beach Bluff Avenue, Tree ID #35. The Public Works Office received a request from Ann Eskesen requesting the tree be removed due to persistent leaf fall and the oak leaves' lack of decay once they do fall. Sylvia Belkin, Henry and Claire Dembowski, and Jessica Donohue opposed the tree removal but offered alternative suggestions for Ms. Eskesen and her garden. Mr. Gardiner noted that the tree is in good condition. Therefore, it was Mr. Cresta's decision for the tree to remain.

Subject #11: The Norway Maple located between 68 and 80 Mountwood Road, Tree ID #1771. The Public Works Office received a request from John and Colette Green requesting the tree be evaluated due to unhealthy appearance. John White and Sheila Donovan want the tree to remain if possible. Ms. Stevens and Mr. Gardiner noted the wound and decay at the trunk, presence of insects, deadwood, and significant unbalance of the tree and recommended removal. The neighbors want to work together to purchase a replacement tree. Therefore, the tree will be removed.

Mr. Gardiner made a motion to adjourn.