



*Town of Swampscott*  
*Department of Public Works*

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The Department of Public Works conducted a Tree Hearing on Thursday, March 3, 2022. The Tree Hearing was held virtually at 2:00pm. The meeting was recorded.

**In Attendance:** Gino Cresta Jr., Director of Public Works  
Marzie Galazka, Community Development Director  
Gene Gardiner, Forestry Foreman  
Jim Olivetti, Tree Committee  
Brian Drummond, Tree Committee  
Ana Nenshati, Tree Committee  
Mathew Jensen, 30 Manton Road  
Andrew Roberts, 1014 Humphrey Street  
Jocelyn Cook, 3 Lexington Circle  
Paco Sheehan, 29 Plymouth Ave  
Enza Sheehan, 29 Plymouth Ave  
Diane Swartz, 23 Plymouth Ave

**Subject #1:** The Norway maple tree located at 71 Banks Road. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office has received numerous complaints regarding the tree due to it leaning at a 45-degree angle at a busy intersection. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, evaluated the tree and noted exposed roots with damage at the curb, along with the potentially dangerous slant. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

**Subject #2:** The Norway maple tree located at 42 Stanwood Road. Mr. Cresta read an email that he received from Patrick Cassidy, 42 Stanwood Road, requesting that the two trees in front of his home be evaluated believing that they were unhealthy. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, evaluated both trees,

one of which he believed was healthy but in need of a good pruning. The second tree contained significant deadwood and a large cavity seven feet from the base. Thus it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the tree to be removed. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed. Although there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mathew Jensen, 30 Manton Road, stated that there were owls living in the tree and requested that the trees removal be postponed until the owls had vacated their nesting area. Mr. Cresta agreed that the tree would not be removed while the owls were nesting in the tree.

**Subject #3:** The Norway maple tree located at 20 Eulow Street. Mr. Cresta read an email that he received from Mike Walsh, 37 Estabrook Road, requesting that the tree at the rear of his property be evaluated due to it loosing many limbs over the past couple of years. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, acknowledged that the tree contained two past leader failures and decay due to prior wounds. Jim Olivetti, Tree Committee, 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 #4:** The Sugar maple tree located at 27 Puritan Park. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works Office had received a request from Brian McCarren, asking that the tree be evaluated due to it recently loosing several large branches, one of which fell on his home. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, acknowledged that he had been to the address on several occasions to remove fallen branches. Additionally, Mr. Gardiner noted a large cavity at the base of the tree along with multiple deadwood. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

**Subject #5:** The Bradford pear tree located at 1014 Humphrey Street. Andrew Roberts, 1014 Humphrey Street, spoke in favor of the tree being removed for multiple reasons. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, evaluated the tree and confirmed the tree was in poor condition. Noting multiple inclusions and weak attachments. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed. Mr. Roberts indicated that he would be purchasing a replacement tree after the pear tree was removed.

**Subject #6:** The Silver maple tree located at 565 Humphrey Street. Mr. Cresta read an email that he received from Deborah McLaughlin, Facilities Director for the Bertram House, asking that the tree be removed due to safety concerns. Brian Drummond, Tree Committee, said that if the tree was not

deemed to constitute a hazard that he would want the trees to remain standing. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, acknowledged that the tree was relatively healthy but had a large leader that was overhanging the Bertram House generator. Mr. Gardiner recommended removing the large leader that was overhanging the generator. Mr. Cresta approved Mr. Gardiner's recommendation acknowledging that the tree would continue to be monitored.

**Subject #7:** The Silver maple tree located at 565 Humphrey Street. Mr. Cresta read an email that he received from Deborah McLaughlin, Facilities Director for the Bertram House, asking that the tree be removed due to safety concerns. Brian Drummond, Tree Committee, said that if the tree was not deemed to constitute a hazard that he would want the trees to remain standing. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, acknowledged that the tree was relatively healthy and should remain standing. Mr. Cresta approved Mr. Gardiner's recommendation acknowledging that the tree would continue to be monitored.

**Subject #8:** The American elm tree located at 19 Parsons Drive. Clayton Curtis, 19 Parsons Drive, provided Mr. Cresta with a report from a certified arborist noting the tree had died due to being infested with bark beetles. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, conceded that tree was dead and should be removed. Jim Olivetti, Tree Committee, added that the tree was shedding branches and bark, and was in rough condition. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

**Subject #9:** The Silver maple tree located at 16 Columbia Street. Mr. Cresta read an email that he received from John Barry, 16-18 Columbia Street, requesting the tree in front of his home be removed due to a similar sized tree at the same location recently falling and leaving many residents on the street without power for several days. Mr. Cresta read a second from Peter Olson requesting the tree be removed for similar reasons. Both Mr. Olivetti and Mr. Drummond, Tree Committee members, spoke in opposition to the tree's removal believing it to be healthy. Affirming that the tree appeared to be relatively healthy, Mr. Cresta allowed the tree to remain standing while conceding that it will be extensively pruned.

**Subject #10:** The Silver maple tree located at 12 Summit View Drive. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works Office had received a request from Anthony Collmann, asking that the tree be evaluated due to it recently losing

several large branches and containing large amounts of deadwood. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, noted the tree had a girdling root and was 99% dead. Mr. Olivetti, Tree Committee, had no opposition to the tree's removal. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

**Subject #11:** The Red oak tree located closest to Forest Ave at 3 Lexington Circle. Jocelyn Cook, 3 Lexington Circle, spoke in favor of the tree being removed due to multiple concerns. Ms. Cook's primary concerns were not being able to park in front of her house due to the tree extending into the roadway, and the damage that the root system of the tree was causing to her property. Following a lengthy debate, Mr. Olivetti, Tree Committee, commented that the two large red oak trees should not have been planted in such proximity to each other. Adding that although both trees were relatively healthy, he would be in favor of removing the tree closest to Forest Ave as he believed this tree to be in poorer health. Mr. Gardiner agreed with Mr. Olivetti's assessment. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

**Subject #12:** The Red oak tree located closest to the driveway at 3 Lexington Circle. Jocelyn Cook, 3 Lexington Circle, withdrew her request to have this tree removed. Ms. Cook instead requested the tree be pruned extensively. Mr. Cresta agreed with Ms. Cook's recommendation.

**Subject #13:** The Norway maple tree located at 23 Plymouth Ave. Enza Sheehan, 29 Plymouth Ave, provided Mr. Cresta with a video documenting the steady decline of the tree over the past several years. The video was quite compelling and clearly corroborated the tree's steady decline. Diane Swartz, 23 Plymouth Ave, also spoke in favor of the tree's removal. Mr. Gardiner, forestry foreman, stated that the tree had a girdling root, contained pruning defects, and large deadwood. Thus it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the tree to be removed. Affirming that there was no opposition to the tree's removal, Mr. Cresta authorized the tree be removed.

**At 3:15 pm, Mr. Cresta made a motion to adjourn.**