



Town of Swampscott Department of Public Works

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The Department of Public Works conducted a Tree Hearing on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. The Tree Hearing was held at the Swampscott Town Hall, located at 22 Monument Ave, Swampscott, Massachusetts at 2:00pm.

In Attendance: Gino Cresta Jr., Director of Public Works
Gene Gardiner, Tree Warden
Jim Olivetti, 86 Farragut Road
Fred Beshara, 4 Bradlee Ave
Cecelia Aoki, 4 Parsons Drive
Clinton Guy, 41 Magnolia Road
Joseph Markarian, 22 Nason Road

Subject #1: The Norway maple tree located at 4 Bradlee Ave. Fred Beshara spoke in support of the trees removal stating safety concerns due to numerous fallen limbs as well as insect infestation. Mr. Gardiner acknowledged the tree exhibited significant root rot and contained significant deadwood. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report noted that the canopy was unbalanced and leaning dangerously toward the house. Patricia Jones, 25 Farragut Road, wrote an email in opposition to the tree's removal. However, it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the tree to be removed.

Subject #2: The Norway maple tree located at 41 Magnolia Road. Mr. Cresta read an email written by Andrew Steingiser, 41 Magnolia Road, requesting the tree be removed due to safety concerns. Mr. Steingiser stated that the tree had lost several large limbs during recent wind storms and was beginning to lean more towards his home. With a baby soon to arrive his anxiety about the tree fallen had magnified. Clinton Guy also spoke in favor of the trees removal. Mr. Gardiner stated that the tree was infested with black ants and was starting to lean more to the house. Therefore, it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation that the tree to be removed.

Subject #3: The crimson king maple tree located at 4 Parsons Drive. Cecelia Aoki spoke in support of the trees removal stating that it was her belief that the tree's roots were invading her home through her foundation walls. After a lengthy

and sometimes contentious discussion, Mr. Cresta sympathetically explained the Town would not remove a healthy tree due to roots entering one's property. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report noted that the tree was in fair condition with a small amount of deadwood, and only recommended for the crown to be cleaned. Therefore, it was decided that the tree would remain standing.

Subject #4: The linden tree located at 22 Nason Road. Joseph Markarian spoke in support of the trees removal stating his belief that the tree was dead and constituted a hazard. Mr. Gardiner stated that this tree was discussed at a previous tree hearing and that the decision at that time was to prune the tree and continue to monitor. However, when in the bucket truck while pruning, he noticed extensive damage that he was not able to view from the ground. Mr. Markarian said he would support a replacement tree in the general vicinity if the tree was to be removed. It was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the tree to be removed.

Subject #5: The Norway maple tree located at 20 Eulow Street. Mr. Cresta read an email that he had received from Nicole Sanphy, 20 Eulow Street, requesting the tree be removed due to safety concerns. Mrs. Sanphy stated that the tree had lost a very large limb and was afraid that the remainder of the tree that was leaning towards the street may injure someone. Mr. Gardiner stated that the tree had in fact lost a large leader which constituted close to half of the tree. He also added that the remainder of the tree was rotted. Therefore, it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation that the tree to be removed. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report supported Mr. Gardiner's recommendation noting that considerable column decay.

Subject #6: The Norway maple tree located at 36 Linden Ave. Mr. Cresta read an email that he had received from Dr. Richard Schwartz, 36 Linden Ave, requesting the tree be removed due to his belief that the tree was diseased. Mr. Gardiner stated that the tree exhibited root rot and would defer to the SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report documented that the tree was in poor condition with a stem canker and significant decay. Thus, it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the tree to be removed.

Subject #7: The red maple tree located at 49 Salem Street. Mr. Cresta noted that the tree was actually located on Harrison Ave across from #22. Mr. Cresta then read an email that he had received from Mrs. Lita Zuchero, 22 Harrison Ave, stating her opposition to the trees removal suggesting that it could be pruned. Mr. Gardiner concurred with Mrs. Zuchero's recommendation. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report further supported the pruning option, recommending removal of deadwood overhanging the roadway.

Subject #8: The Norway maple tree located at 110 Eastman Ave. Mr. Cresta read an email that he had received from Ted Delano, 110 Eastman Ave, requesting the trees removal due to it having lost several limbs over the past year. Mr. Gardiner noted that the tree had lost a large leader during one of the March nor'easters. However, he believed the tree to be otherwise healthy. The SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report noted codominant stem at root, but its mitigation recommendation was to prune and monitor. Thus, it was determined that the tree would in fact be pruned and monitored.

Subject #9: The Norway maple tree located across from 12 Northstone Road. Mr. Cresta stated that the Public Works office had received a phone call from Dr. Charles Blander, 12 Blodgett Ave, expressing his concern that the tree was constituting a hazard in its present state. Mr. Gardiner stated that the tree had some deadwood and was leaning towards the street but was otherwise healthy. His recommendation, which was supported by the SavATree Street Tree Evaluation Report, was to prune the deadwood and continue to monitor.

Subject #10: The five silver maple trees located at 565 Humphrey Street. Mr. Cresta noted that the five trees in question were actually located on Bondelevitch Way. Mr. Cresta read a letter that he had received from Deborah McLaughlin, Facilities Director for the Bertram House, stating that she had the five trees in question evaluated by a certified tree arborist and that all five posed a "serious threat" to the residents of the Bertram House. Jim Olivetti spoke on behalf of the Open Space and Recreation Committee stating their concern for removing all five trees as they thought it would decimate the area. Mr. Gardiner noted that the first tree on Bondelevitch Way was the only one that he believed to present a danger as it exhibited significant root rot. Thus, it was Mr. Gardiner's recommendation for the first tree to be removed, and the other four to be pruned and monitored.

At 3:15 p.m. Mr. Gardiner made a motion to adjourn.