



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

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September 12, 2014

Mr. Gino A. Cresta, Jr.
Director of Public Works
Town of Swampscott

Dear Gino:

Thank you for walking me through the procedures and policies with regard to street trees when I attended the Tree Hearing on June 17th. I very much appreciated your willingness to answer the number of questions I had relating to how Swampscott handles the removal and replacement of its street trees. I subsequently reported back what I learned to the other members of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee at our next regular meeting.

I would like to pass on to you a recommendation that grew out of that meeting. The Committee suggests that you add to the DPW's list of accepted replacement trees several varieties of oaks and maples. The Committee felt it was important to have the option to use such larger canopy trees as replacements trees where appropriate, as opposed to ornamentals such as cherries, which have shorter life spans and do not always suit the character of the neighborhoods where the trees are to be planted. The Olmsted Historic District comes particularly to mind here. Frederick Law Olmsted's original planting list called for an abundance of canopy trees, including red maples (*Acer rubrum*) and red oaks (*Quercus rubrum*), many of which are reaching the end of their life spans and will need to be replaced in the near future. Conforming to Olmsted's tree selections, at least in terms of canopy trees, would do a great deal to preserve the character of Swampscott's local historic district.

Thank you again for your ongoing cooperative spirit, and for considering this OSRPC request.

Sincerely,

Jim Olivetti
Vice Chair, Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee