

PLANNING BOARD



19 WASHINGTON STREET
SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS 01770

MINUTES November 19, 2015

Members Present: John Higley, Eric Johnson, Chris Tullmann, Marian Neutra, and Town Planner Gino Carlucci

Members Absent: Joseph Putnam, Grace Shepard

Others Present: Tree Warden Brian McSweeney, Ed Wagner, Charles Blaney, Bill Vaughn, Brendan Daly, Peggy Novak, Suzanne Setzer, Joel Foner

John Higley called the Non Scenic Road Tree Removal Public Hearing to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Sherborn Police Station. This hearing was held by the Tree Warden and minutes are included here as a courtesy and with relevance to the Planning Board hosted tree hearings immediately following this hearing.

EVERSOURCE TREE REMOVAL PUBLIC HEARING – NON-SCENIC (*Reference Document #1*)

Tree Warden Brian McSweeney held a public hearing to consider the removal of five public shade trees on non-scenic roads. The five trees have been identified by utility company Eversource as candidates for removal due to their health, interference, or potential interference with utility lines. Eversource will remove any trees approved for removal at the company's cost. Because these trees are on non-scenic roads in Town, the decision to remove them remains at the discretion of the Tree Warden. The hearing was completed and closed at approximately 7:30PM.

John Higley called the Planning Board meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Sherborn Police Station.

WOODLAND-GOULDING STREET WEST INTERSECTION

This is the continuation of a hearing that was opened on September 30, 2015. John Higley and Chris Tullmann provided interested audience members with an overview of the purpose of a proposed reconfiguration for the Woodland-Goulding Street West intersection as well as the progress of the process so far. An updated cost estimate of the project from associated utility companies has not been received as of tonight's meeting. This hearing is continued to the next meeting of the Planning Board on December 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

EVERSOURCE TREE REMOVAL PUBLIC HEARING – SCENIC (*Reference Documents #1, 2*)

John Higley opened the joint hearing between the Planning Board and the Tree Warden to consider a list of trees on scenic roads selected for removal by Eversource. The Board and Tree Warden were provided with a list of 16 trees, and these trees were adequately tagged, prior to tonight's hearing to give the Board and the public the opportunity to inspect each. The condition of each tree was discussed and all but four were approved for removal. The possibility of pruning, rather than entirely removing, some of the trees. The Tree Warden will contact Eversource about that possibility, but stated that it is typically the preference of utility companies to eliminate possible threats to utility wires by removing threatening trees entirely. Tree #6 (a large oak on Nason Hill Road), tree #11 (a large ash on Western Avenue), and tree #16 (an oak on Woodland Street) are, in the opinion of Board members, candidates for pruning and are otherwise healthy trees.

Tree #16 is an oak with four large leaders; two of the leaders are leaning toward the street (and wires) and two are leaning away from the street. The two leaders leaning toward the street were approved for removal. It is hoped that the these two leaders can be removed without damage to the remaining two. Tree #11 appears to have one dead limb threatening wires, but the remainder of the large tree seems to be in good condition. Therefore, the pruning of the dead limb while leaving the rest of the tree intact is the desired course of action. Tree #6 is in close proximity to utility wires, but the tree is otherwise healthy. Pruning of the limbs near the wires while leaving the tree standing is desirable to the Board. The Tree Warden will specifically inquire as to whether these trees can be pruned. If Eversource denies the request to prune these three trees, the trees are to be left intact and can be addressed by the Town at a later time. Tree #9, a large oak on Pleasant Street, was determined to be a healthy and important shade tree and its removal has been denied. Tree #17, on Woodland Street, located at pole number 23, was added to the list and approved for removal.

Bill Vaughn inquired about the procedure of tree removal. Ed Wagner, CM&D Director, explained that Eversource will perform the tree cutting and will grind the stump to the ground level. Eversource will remove all debris and top soil will be replaced over the stump.

Chris Tullmann reminded the Board that mitigation is required in the case of tree removal, according to the Town's Tree Manual. The Board agreed that while mitigation related to trees identified in the annual scenic road tree hearing has not been enforced in the past, it should become part of the future of tree removal hearings. Types of mitigation, including replanting or the protection of healthy trees in the vicinity of a tree to be removed, were discussed. To facilitate regular mitigation in cases of tree removal, a new column will be added to the annual tree hearing list to identify specific mitigation actions to be taken for each tree. When identifying and tagging trees he feels should be considered for removal, the Tree Warden will now also identify that either the replanting of new trees should occur or that existing trees nearby should be protected.

Rebecca Hunnewell provided the Board with a document titled, "The Relationship of Street Trees to Safety in Sherborn, Massachusetts: A Retrospective Analysis." Ed Wagner invited and encouraged members of the Planning Board to attend meetings of the Public Safety Committee,

as topics such as the impacts of shade trees in close proximity to the edge of roadways on traffic safety and speed-calming are discussed.

John Higley moved to approve the amended tree removal list for those trees on scenic roads, noting that tree 9 will be left intact, tree 17 will be removed, and trees 6, 11, and 16 will be pruned or left intact.

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WORK GROUPS

John Higley reports continued low turnout for Built Environment work group meetings. Marian Neutra has been assisting that group in their efforts to assemble the work they've done so far into the standard General Plan format. The Fiscal and Economic work group will meet again in mid-December and the Land Use work group will next meet on December 1, 2015.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Building inspector – A new building inspector will begin working for the Town. He will work part-time for Sherborn and part-time for Needham.

Town Center Housing – John Higley has been approached by Bob Delaney and Frank Jenkins about their ideas for revenue-generating housing near the Town Center. The men will come before the Board at the next meeting on December 2, 2015 to discuss their ideas.

Abbey Road Sidewalk – Several people, including John Higley, Ed Wagner and Sean Killeen, met with a consulting engineer at the site of the planned sidewalk near the Abbey Road development on the east side of South Main Street as part of continued efforts to create an action plan for getting the sidewalk project completed. The engineer will present a proposal to the Town for drafting a plan. Gino Carlucci will provide the engineer with a copy of the survey of North Main Street from the 1990's.

ADESA – There will be a hearing at the next Planning Board meeting to discuss ADESA's plans to install solar canopies above a portion of their parking lot. These modifications will require amendments to ADESA's special permit.

MINUTES

The minutes of October 28, 2015 were unanimously approved as amended.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Shepherd

DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING

1. The list of trees identified by Eversource for removal from non-scenic and scenic roadways.
2. "The Relationship of Street Trees to Safety in Sherborn, Massachusetts: A Retrospective Analysis," as presented by Rebecca Hunnewell to the Board.

