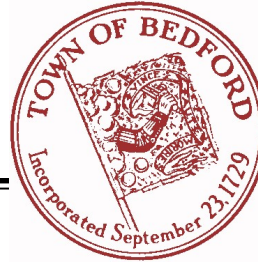


TOWN OF BEDFORD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



314 THE GREAT ROAD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

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Date: October 11, 2023

To: Bedford Arbor Resources Committee

From: Jeanette Rebecchi, Capital Program Manager

Re: **Town Tree Removal – Shawsheen Cemetery Expansion Phase 1**

The Town's program for cemetery expansion has been in place for over 100 years. Based on the number of plots remaining within the Shawsheen Cemetery when compared to the rate of purchase, four grave lots (which permit a headstone) will be depleted much sooner than cremation or flush-marker lots. To keep up with demand, a Phase I expansion is planned in early 2024 to construct a Morningside V at the back of the existing cemetery, and create 88 new four grave lots. By expanding and optimizing space within the existing cemetery bounds we are able delay the much larger Phase II expansion currently scheduled for construction in FY28/29.

The Department of Public Works is currently moving through the permitting process for this project. A site walk was held on September 28, 2023 for BARC and any interested members of the public. The perimeter of the area was subsequently reflagged by DPW staff to make the area of clearing and grading more visible.

Quantification and Mitigation of Tree Removal

The enclosed tree removal plan shows a total of 0.7 acres of clearing on Town property, primarily in a wooded area 60' beyond the current chain link fence. Per the current Town Tree Policy Appendix, mitigation is required at a rate of \$5,000 per acre. This results in mitigation payment of \$3,500. DPW will also plant 9 replacement trees at 40' intervals along the Morningside V circulation driveway, and requests that BARC make a recommendation regarding the mix of species.

In recognition of BARC's efforts to develop a new tree policy, DPW requested a consultant survey all trees within this clearing area 3" and greater in DBH to use as a test case for quantification and mitigation under the proposed policy. Unfortunately, the accuracy of a tree survey within a large wooded area with limited landmarks was not 100% achieved.