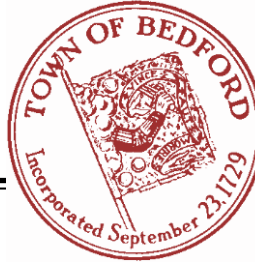


TOWN OF BEDFORD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



314 THE GREAT ROAD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

TEL: 781-275-7605
FAX: 781-275-9010

Date: January 26, 2022

To: Arbor Resources Committee
Tree Warden

From: Jeanette Rebecchi, Transportation Program Manager

Re: Town Tree Removal - North Road/Chelmsford Road Improvement Project

The Department of Public Works is requesting an application for town tree removal in accordance with the Town of Bedford Tree Policy. Per the Tree Policy, optional Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC) meetings were advertised and held on February 25, 2021 and August 18, 2021 to discuss the project with the Committee and any interested residents. Updates have been provided regularly at BARC meetings by the DPW Director to keep the committee apprised of the project. A site walk was also held with BARC on August 4, 2021 to review the plans and answer questions in person.

A number of concerns regarding specific trees have been raised to date by BARC as described below:

- **48" Oak at 428 North Road:** BARC has requested this tree be saved by moving the sidewalk behind the tree and onto private property. Staff presented the request for an easement to the property owner at a site meeting with the property and salon owners on October 21, 2021. Mr. Rullo does not want the tree preserved, and will not grant the additional easement.
- **36" Oak at 324 North Road:** BARC has requested this tree be saved by constructing the sidewalk between the tree and the private stone wall. Both BARC and DPW staff met with the property owner separately in the fall of 2021. The property owner would like the tree preserved, but without impacting the stone wall. There is 3' between the face of the stone wall and the tree trunk. Staff is requesting removal of the tree entirely since construction will significantly damage the critical root zone. There is also a case to be made to preserve the consistent, 5' ADA accessible width of the sidewalk, and avoiding future snow removal issues. However, the Town Engineer is willing to work with the contractor (TBD) to come up with an alternative design if feasible. This could include anything from a stone dust application to complete removal depending on the contractor's opinion of constructability.

Quantification and Mitigation of Tree Removal

The enclosed tree removal plan show a total of 53 public trees being removed, and 14 trees planted within the ROW as replacements, which is less than the one-to-one mitigation required by the Tree Policy. Approximately 80 trees will be removed on private property due to grading, and 98 trees planted as replacements, which results in a net positive of 18 trees.

Per the Town Tree Policy Appendix, mitigation is required for trees 6" DBH or greater at a schedule of one tree for each tree removed, for trees 6" DBH up to 18" DBH, and two trees for each tree removed for trees greater than 18" DBH. Since the project is spread out over a large linear area, it did not make sense to attempt an area calculation. Using the abovementioned "per tree" metric, this results in mitigation payment of \$6,500 as detailed in the attached spreadsheet.