

3/30/2025

Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee
2 April 2025 Agenda

***DRAFT Minutes of 5 March 2025** (*Attachment 1*)

***Comments from Residents** (*Please limit in-person comments to 3 minutes*)

***Correspondence**

***Old Business**

Maintenance

Tree Law

Enforcement process – any updates?

New Trees

- Beverley will mark locations for Spring planting with Parks staff
- Fall 2025 trees, Shore Acres Bird Sanctuary, Leslie & Beverley have begun marking locations with flags, selecting species
 - o Species:
 - Eastern red cedar (salt tolerant, brackish tolerant, full sun, deer resistant)
 - Tupelo (full sun - part shade, salt tolerant, deer resistant)
 - Shagbark hickory (full sun – shade, soil salt tolerant, deer resistant)
 - Serviceberry (full sun – part shade, salt tolerant, deer resistant)
 - o Will need deer guards for early years, except for eastern red cedar

Heritage Trees

- BOT recognizes registry

Dog Park Request for Trees update (Attachment 2)

Boston Post Road Renovations updates

Public Education

- Mulching information sheet for residents
- New tree signs

*** New Business**

308 Melbourne Subdivision – Residents concerned that removing two street trees may be allowed by Planning Board; also concerned about the loss of private trees (Attachment 3)

*** Other Business**

- Stockholm Tree Pit Method
<https://reasonstobecheerful.world/stockholm-tree-pit-method/>
- “Scarsdale’s Tree Canopy Is Disappearing” (Attachment 4)

***Calendar Notes**

- **May 7, 2025, next meeting,** Ethics Board will attend
- April 25, 2025, dedicated tree planting at Mamaroneck Ave School
- April 26, 2025, Clean & Green Day booth, Gail, Leslie, Lilia
- May 4, 2025, Guided Tree Walk, Florence Park; rain date June 7
- May 10, 2025, Native Plant Giveaway and Swap (Beverley & ____)

Pre-Meeting Book Chat

- The Overstory
- A Heartbeat of Trees

DRAFT Tree Committee Meeting - March 5, 2025 7:36 meeting start

Members:

- Sara, Ellen, Lilia, Beverley, Gail, Leslie, and guest Dennis Delborgo

Citizen Correspondence

- The email sent was not tree committee business, it is county business.

Maintenance

- 322 Wagner – copy provided from James Barney.
- Pruning at Palmer Terrace – the report said they need tree pits (carve out for roots) and trimming
 - o The wondering is how much it would be and if it can go into the capitol budget?

Tree Law Enforcement Process

- Email DRAFT of protocol – Lilia
- Ideas:
 - o Could there be a CC to the tree committee for tree permits?
 - o Could we just have it listed on the website?
 - o Could we make a mandate a large lawn signs if it a large, old growth trees? How big of a tree would trigger that extra step?
 - o Could there be a second pair of eyes on trees that receive permits but seem healthy?
 - o Could we use the “tree fines” to pay arborists for a second look?
 - o How do we close out the permit protocol? How do we know homes are replanting?

New Trees

- Spring planting is out for bid; we should send feedback to Jeff if we think the trees from a particular company have not been healthy.
 - o Could we collaborate with surrounding municipalities to make a tree purchasing list so that we can get a better price on larger orders of trees?
- Fall list;
 - o We will use color coordinated flags to indicate types of trees
 - o Black cherry? Service berry? Black willow? Red maple? Eastern black walnut? Black choke berry? Shagbark hickory?

Heritage Tree Registry

- Heritage = bigger and older // Champion Trees = heritage trees in the making
- Can there be public recognition for our trees?

Boston Post Renovations

- Gail represents the tree committee and emailed comments but it was stopped.
- Sara will follow up on when the next meeting is, complete streets. NY DOT
- Can we use the structural soil when planting trees?

Public Education

- Gail made mulching flyer
- Gail will call about the logo in the right corner
- How to share the information: Tree committee website, newsletter, social media, glass case at Florence Park, Native Plant give away (May 10th)
- Adopt a tree flyer on new trees
 - o Can we leave the note with homeowner, tie it to the tree?
 - Bev will draft a letter about how to care for a tree; no mulch volcano, no weed Wacker and send to Gail to make it happier

New Business

- Native plant give-away
 - o Con Ed – trees?
 - o Plant tree seeds project

Send these ideas to Gail -- Earth Day Ideas

Clean and Green Day – Columbus Park

- Flip up chart, did you know...? How many gallons of water does a tree drink a day? What are other fun facts about trees can share with kids?
- Scavenger hunt of tree types, natural elements of Harbor Island
- Stick art

May 4 – Spring Tree Walk

- Where will it be?

9:19

Attachment 2
Dog Park Trees

Hi Jeff,

I know you responded to my questions last fall about planting more trees in the Dog Park, and explained that there are underground utilities that limit the available locations.

Nevertheless, we continue to hear from dog owners who would like to use the park but find it unbearable much of the year because of the relentless sun and heat. They are asking us for trees.

Would it be possible for you to meet with Michelle Goodman and me at the park sometime with a map of the underground architecture so we can walk around and look for possible spots that could support trees without creating interference?

Thank you.
Beverley

.....

Hi Beverly

I really would rather not mess with all the under ground stuff over for now

Thank you

If you have any questions please let me know

Jeffrey Ahne

.....

I hear you. Thank you.

I'll pass the information back. Are there other ways we might create shade, such as canopies, perhaps? The dog park could be a much better loved resource.

Beverley

Attachment 3
308 Melbourne Subdivision

Greetings Beverley! I hope all is well on your end.

I want to fill you in about something going on on our street, in the hopes that the Tree Committee is willing to get involved:

The property owners at 308 Melbourne Avenue are trying to get approvals and variances to subdivide their yard in order to squeeze in a second house, a second driveway, and a parking area.

There are two massive Village-owned trees on the devil's strip in front of that yard. I am terribly worried that if the subdivision plans are ultimately approved, it would mean those two trees would be irreparably damaged by all the excavation and paving or worse- be removed entirely. No amount of permit fees or replacement saplings could ever make up for the loss of those two majestic trees. Nothing in our lifetimes would grow that big.

I was heartsick to lose the locust tree in front of our property, but the Village deemed the tree in danger of toppling. The trees at 308 are straight and healthy.

The neighbors here on Melbourne are panicked about the impact a new building would have on the flooding problem on the street. If those trees are also lost in the process (in addition to other equally huge trees within the yard at 308 that would be removed to build) it would be even more catastrophic.

It would be so helpful if the Tree Committee could put something on the record for the Planning Board detailing the terrible environmental impact (not just the flooding) that would result from the loss of such mature trees.

Planning Board:

Seamus O'Rourke, Chair sorourke@vomny.net

Helen Rafferty, Member hrafferty@vomny.net

Richard Litman, Member rlitman@vomny.net

William Bintzer, Member bbintzer@vomny.net

Mary Shiffer, Member mshiffer@vomny.net

Brittanie O'Neill, Coordinator boneill@vomny.org

I have copied Carlo Reca here. He has been coordinating the neighborhood response to the proposed subdivision. If you have questions he will be happy to give you details. He will also know when this project will be on the Board's agenda.

I hope your committee members can come by 308 Melbourne and have a look in person at what is at risk of being lost.

Thanks very, very much for any help you can offer.

All the best,
Jilana

Hi Jilana and Carlo,

I stopped by this morning to look at the two street trees and peek through to the back yard to get a sense of private trees that might be affected by development. Please keep in mind that I'm not a certified arborist. Here are my thoughts.

- the two VOM street trees are among the very few surviving mature trees on Melbourne Ave.

- removing the two VOM trees at 308 Melbourne will destroy some of the last remaining aesthetic and infrastructure services conveyed by mature trees on Melbourne Ave. As recently as 15 years ago the street was lined with mature trees creating a broad canopy that defined the character of the neighborhood. While the Village has begun replanting recently, it will be 30-40 years before the new trees can deliver the shade, temperature modulation, rainwater management, privacy, aesthetic or other benefits as the trees that have been lost. Preserving the mature trees that remain is a critical issue for Melbourne Ave.

- I am not an arborist, but trees look healthy apart from Con Ed vandalism (They could use some pruning, like most mature trees)

- significant number of other large, mature trees seem to be along boundaries and in the back yard. Likely many will be targeted by development, further affecting local light, temperatures, water management

Reminder: VOM tree removal permits require agreement of affected neighbors for removal of any trees that straddle a property line.

Beverley

Hi Carlo,

Regarding the requirement for neighbors' consent to removal of trees straddling a shared boundary, if the branches of a tree extend over the property line, that's generally considered "straddling"

Beverley

Attachment 4

Scarsdale 10583

Scarsdale's Tree Canopy is Rapidly Disappearing: Here's Why

Friday, 28 March 2025 12:32

Last Updated: Friday, 28 March 2025 13:51

Published: Friday, 28 March 2025 12:32

Joanne Wallenstein



Scarsdale's tree

canopy is rapidly disappearing. The number of trees lost is alarming as tree roots mitigate flooding and leafy canopies serve to cool the atmosphere and improve air quality at a time when global warming and flooding pose risks to our environment.

Though Scarsdale strengthened the code for tree removals a few years ago, it appears these laws have not gone far enough to protect the Village in a Park.

The numbers are shocking:

- In 2024, 272 tree removal permits were issued by the Engineering Department for the removal of 793 trees.
- These permits required the replanting of a total of 242 trees and a donation in lieu of planting of \$10,500.
- 551 trees (70%) that were permitted to be removed, did not require replacement (per Village Code) due to:

1. They were certified by an arborist as being dead, diseased or dying

2. They were as of right (2 trees per year)
3. The trees being removed were less than 6" dbh (Diameter at Breast Height)
4. The trees were identified as being an invasive species (ie, Norway Maple)

These counts do not include any trees that were removed without permits.

So, it seems that the wide scale attack on trees is due to a lack of enforcement and the fact that so many trees were either too small or deemed "invasive" and therefore taken down without replacement.

This was the subject of a work session of the Village Board on March 25.

At the session, the Village Board offered the Department of Public Works an additional \$30,000 to step up enforcement to permit an arborist to visit a property before trees were removed, and to visit afterwards to confirm that the required number of trees are replaced.

However, Supervisor Jeff Coleman said that this was already being done by the Village arborist. Coleman contended that the loss of trees was due to the current Village code that permits removal of many trees and that some take down trees without permits or on weekends and do not report the removals.

Instead of additional funding, he recommended that all tree surgeons be required to be licensed by the Village and that the tree code be strengthened to prevent removals.

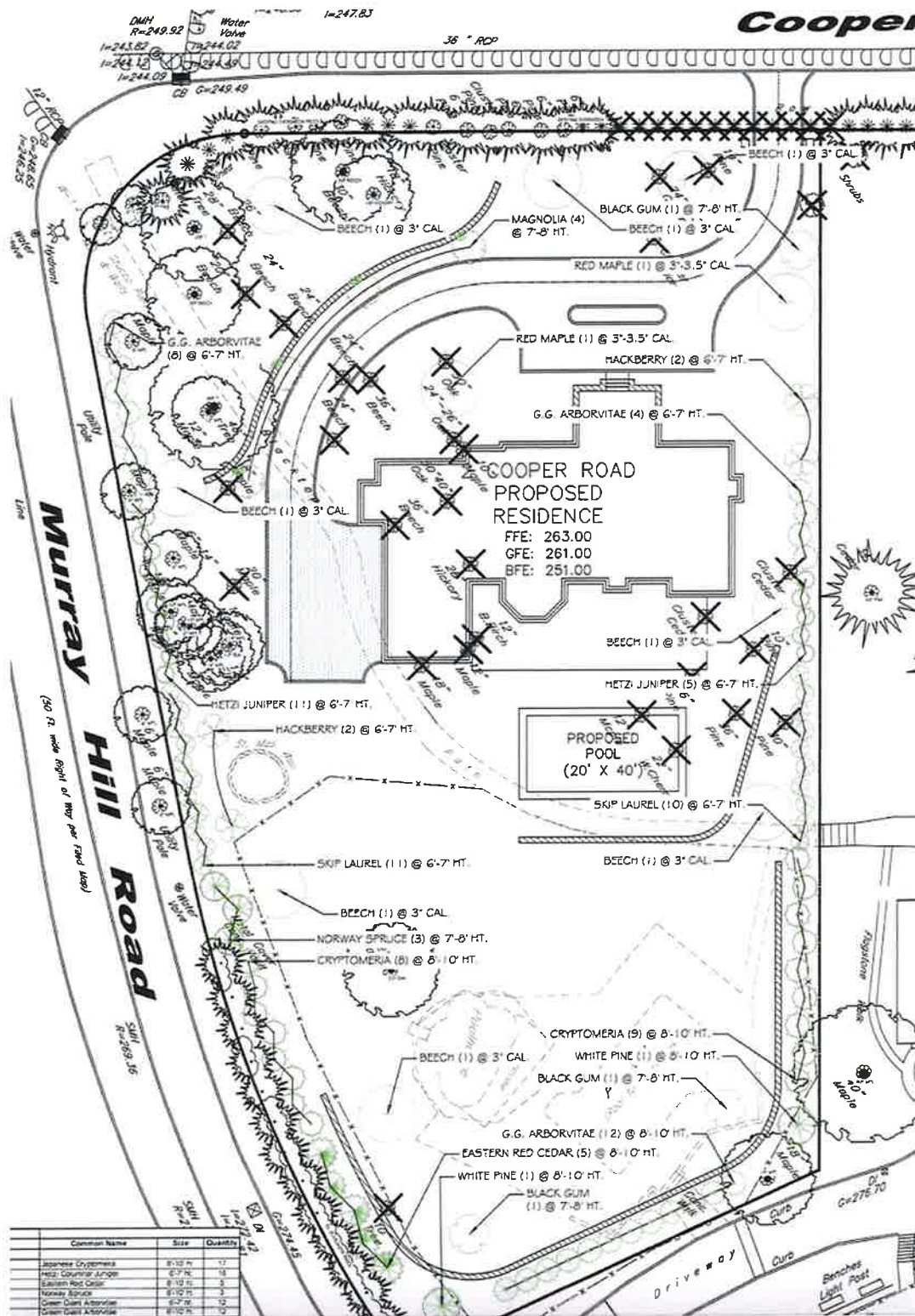
Specifically he said, "Currently, there is sufficient funding requested in the 2025/2026 budget for the consultant arborist to fulfil the scope of services required to support the Department. We do not recommend the wholesale increase in days per month as it will not yield a significant (if any) increase in the number of trees being planted on private property throughout the Village. As noted, the Village Code does not require planting replacement trees under certain circumstances, which constitute the majority of removals. If it is the Village's desire to increase the number of trees planted on private property, the Village Code should be revisited.

It should be noted that, given the complexity of the tree removal permit process and to increase compliance with the Village Code, the Department is working with the Village Attorney to draft a local law to require tree surgeons to be licensed by the village annually."

Trustees agreed that the code should be re-examined and enforcement stepped up. Dara Gruenberg said, "I would like to re-examine the tree code next year." Justin Arest said, "I believe enforcement is the key issue. This would give us teeth in enforcement," and Karen Brew said, "I think this should be more punitive for those who violate the code. Is someone surveying the trees beforehand and afterwards?"

Despite Coleman's contention that enforcement is in place, an application before the Planning Board on Wednesday March 26, 2025 offered a stark illustration of a failure of the current system.

At the 3-26 Planning Board meeting the developer of a subdivided property at 2 Cooper Road appeared to amend a 2019 subdivision site plan



930 MAI 7 4 The re-planting plan for 2 Cooper Road was ignored after the fact. He had already clear cut the property, removing many large deciduous trees without permission and failing to replace them with over 50 blackberry, red maple, hackberry, beech, junipers, laurels, red cedar, and cryptomeria as outlined in the plan. [See what was specified here.](#)

Instead, the 1.16 acre property was clear cut and ringed with arborvitae and hemlock trees. The plan to re-plant was ignored.

In addition, the site plan included a single curb cut on Cooper Road but the builder went for a circular driveway and built an additional curb cut within feet of a busy corner. New curb cuts require traffic studies and permits.

Now five years later, after the property was sold, the developer seemed surprised that the original plan could not be amended. He offered to pay a fine but the Planning Board ruled that he should submit a new arborist plan accounting for removal and new plantings and a traffic engineer report for illegal curb cut.

The loss of trees is staggering and so is the developer's blatant disregard for Village code.