

# April 15, 2010

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON

### Tree Warden Public Hearing Notes

#### Present:

Tree Warden Tom Osborne, First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley. Members of the public.

#### Introduction:

First Selectman Lyon thanked those in attendance for coming and explained that this was a "Tree Warden Public Hearing" on the removal of three trees in Bryan Plaza. The Hearing was requested following the posting of notices on the trees that would be removed. The plan to purchase and plant five American Liberty Elm trees came after the removal of diseased trees last year and the opinion that the three remaining trees should be removed. Tree Warden, Tom Osborne, looked into the American Liberty Elm and found an opportunity and source to purchase five of these trees that are resistant to the Dutch Elm Disease. A Washington resident has generously donated the funds for the purchase. Mark introduced Tom.

#### Tree Warden Tom Osborne:

Tom explained that the trees that have been marked for removal were reviewed by himself as Tree Warden, whose duty is the care, pruning and removal of public trees, Arborist Gary Lord of Lord Tree Experts, First Selectman Mark Lyon, Selectman Jim Brinton and Kevin Smith, Highway Director. The trees are Norway Maples and are on the Washington Market side of the Plaza. Tom took the time to explain each of the trees and what the problem with them is – i.e. structurally weak crotches, girdling roots, dead limbs, frost cracks, rot, moss, trunk damage, etc. He also stated that it is his feeling, when possible, that trees taken down should be replaced.

Tom opened the floor to the public.

Gay Canal, who requested the hearing, expressed the opinion that generally it is not an accepted horticultural practice to plant all the same species of tree in the same area. Tom agreed if there were going to be large numbers of trees of the same species in a limited area and reminded that there are still other species in the Plaza. He distributed information on the American Liberty Elm.

There was further discussion about keeping the trees "safe" from cars, developing a more detailed and long-range plan, involving other organizations, arborists, etc.

As there was no further comment, or dissension, the hearing was closed and Tom, after conferring with the Selectmen gave his decision as follows:

*"These trees were planted after the 1955 flood, so they are approximately 50 years old. The average life span of an urban tree is between 15 and 50 years. These trees are not specimen trees. They are not memorial trees or special in any way. An arborist has recommended they be removed. I have marked them as trees needing to be removed. There is a plan to replace three trees with five young trees of size. I find that the marked trees should be removed."*

Tom Osborne  
Tree Warden

Town of Washington

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary