

HINGHAM PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

July 11, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

REMOTE MEETING

Planning Board Members Present Remotely: Kevin Ellis, Judith Sneath, Gordon Carr, Gary Tondorf-Dick

Also Present: Emily Wentworth, Community Planning Director; Michael Silveira, Senior Planner

Members Absent: Rita DaSilva

At 6:31 p.m. Chair Sneath called the Planning Board meeting to order and stated the following:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.”

Hearing(s)

Chair Sneath stated Town of Hingham filed an application for permits to remove a public shade tree, consisting of an 18”-24” twin maple, on **Lazell Street**, which is a Scenic Road, pursuant to MGL c. 87; MGL c. 40, § 15C; and the Rules and Regulations of the Planning Board Adopted Under the Scenic Road Act.

Chair Sneath stated the Planning Board was meeting with the Randy Sylvester, Tree Warden, to evaluate the public shade tree.

Mr. Sylvester stated the tree was located next to the road on Lazell Street that had been hit by cars, had rot, cavities and insect damage and was dangerous and should be removed.

Chair Sneath asked for questions and comments.

There was discussion regarding the condition of tree and plan to replant a tree in the vicinity of 168 Lazell Street as budget allows.

Based on the information submitted and presented during the hearing Chair Sneath proposed the following findings:

The Rules and Regulations of the Planning Board Adopted under the Scenic Road Act require the Board to consider the following:

- 1. Preservation of natural resources:** The subject tree is failing and cannot be preserved; however, the Tree Warden intends to replace the resource within 12–24 months.
- 2. Environmental values:** Since the tree will be replaced, impacts to environmental values will be mitigated.
- 3. Historical values:** Removal of the twin maple tree will not affect historical values.
- 4. Scenic and aesthetic characteristics:** The subject tree suffers from significant rot. Due to its deteriorated condition, the tree offers limited canopy. Its removal and replacement will improve the scenic and aesthetic characteristics of Lazell Street.
- 5. Public safety:** Removal of the dying twin maple tree will improve public safety by eliminating a hazardous tree.
- 6. Compensatory actions proposed, such as replacement of trees or walls:** As conditioned by this decision, the Tree Warden will replace the tree within 12-24 months.

And to GRANT the application of the Town of Hingham for a Scenic Road Permit to remove a public shade tree, consisting of an 18"-24" twin maple, on Lazell Street, which is a scenic road, pursuant to MGL c. 87; MGL c. 40 § 15C; and the Rules and Regulations of the Planning Board Adopted Under the Scenic Road Act. The Board's consent is conditioned upon the following:

1. No work shall commence until all applicable provisions of the Public Shade Tree Law, MGL Chapter 87, have been complied with.
2. A deciduous tree with a minimum 3" caliper shall be planted in the right of way approximate to 168 Lazell Street within a 2 year period.

Second: Gary Tondorf-Dick

In Favor: Kevin Ellis, Gary Tondorf-Dick, Gordon Carr, Judith Sneath

Opposed: None

Chair Sneath MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Second: Gordon Carr

In Favor: Gordon Carr, Kevin Ellis, Gary Tondorf-Dick, Judith Sneath

Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy L. Altrich
Community Planning Assistant

Meeting Materials:

1. *Community Tree Evaluation Form, dated June 14, 2022*
2. *Photos*