



June 27, 2023

Re: Removal of Red Oak at the Corner of Norfield Road and Norfield Farm Lane of the Town of Weston

This letter is to confirm my support of the Tree Warden's decision to remove the red oak located at the corner of Norfield Road and Norfield Farm Lane of the Town of Weston property. This decision is consistent with the Town of Weston Tree Risk Assessment Report and assessment on May 17, 2023 by Casey Tresp, ISA Certified Arborist #NE-1082A and as summarized in the report prepared by Bartlett Tree Experts.

Tom Failla, the Town's long standing Tree Warden and the Town's subject matter expert has been entrusted under Connecticut State General Statute Sec. 23-59 Powers and Duties, with "the care and control of all trees and shrubs" along town public roads or on town grounds except those along state highways under the Control of Commissioner of Transportation. As such, the tree warden is responsible for assessing the need for the removal or pruning of town trees as matter of public safety.

In Weston, Dr. Tom Failla, was appointed tree warden effective July 1, 2020 by the Board of Selectman. Tom certified as a tree warden in 2019, meeting the state statutory qualification standards. He also completed in 2020 the Connecticut Tree Protective Arboriculture 101 course. Previously, he served for more than 27 years on town land use commissions, including Conservation, Planning and Zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

As provided by Charter, the tree warden reports to the Town Administrator and works closely with the Department of Public Works, the Police and Emergency Services, various volunteer committees concerned with trees in Weston, as well as public utility companies serving Weston and the state departments of Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection.

With regard to the tree in question, Tom and I have discussed this matter at length and based on the aforementioned Report and Tom's expert advice and conclusions, I fully support the recommendation to remove the tree for the safety and well-being, and overall good of the Town of Weston.

Sincerely,



W. Lee Palmer
Weston Interim Town Administrator