

Office of Tree Warden, Town of Weston, 56 Norfield Road Weston, CT 06883

**Notice of Final Decision of the Tree Warden - Town Center and Pedestrian Safety Improvements
Project LOTCIP 157-0001, July 15, 2024**

On June 25, 2024, at the request of the Town of Weston this Tree Warden posted removal notices on 30 live and dead trees to make way for construction of the named project which includes:

1. Weston/School roads intersection widening and sidewalks requiring removal of 21 dead or live trees DBH six in. or greater and many smaller seedlings/saplings on the east side within a state right of way.
2. A sidewalk along the south side Lords Highway from Revson Field to Old Hyde requiring the removal of eight municipal trees larger than seven inches in diameter within a town right of way.
3. A sidewalk on north side of Norfield Road requiring the removal of one tree 50 ft west of the west entrance to Town Hall on a town right of way.

A Public Hearing on Zoom took place on Thursday July 11, 2024, from 4:01 p.m. at 4:49 p.m., following a July 8, 2024 hearing notice posted on the town clerk bulletin board, the town website and The Hour of Norwalk, CT. As required by Chapter 451, Section 23- 59 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the hearing was called because written objections were received from four residents. At the hearing, three who wrote objections and four others expressed opposition to removing the trees especially those on Lords Highway. Mr. Tal Weiss, the resident at 39 Lords Highway, specifically requested that tree LD 4 and LD 5 on either side of his driveway be saved. Others commented on whether the tagged trees were within public rights of way, whether consideration had been given to the shade and other attributes that the tagged trees provide, whether building a sidewalk was needed and whether a town vote would be taken to decide that question.

Having impartially reviewed the facts and opinions presented during the hearing and documents made part of the hearing record, I make the following observation and ruling:

The number of large trees and small trees that were not tagged within rights of way and within 25 ft beyond, on both sides of each roadway affected by the construction, outnumber those being noticed for removal by an estimated ten to one ratio. Should the Town proceed with the project, the tree warden shall be included in discussions with the contractor to see what can be done to save any of the posted trees without damaging them and/or undermining root structures. The tree warden will also coordinate with the Town of Weston on a plan for planting of appropriate seedling or small sapling size replacement trees and/or shrubs on private property adjacent to the project should private property owners be willing to care for the new plantings on their property.

This is the final decision of the Weston Tree Warden. Let it be known that Chapter 451, Section 23-59 of the Connecticut General Statutes states: “the Tree Warden shall render his/her decision granting or denying the application, and the party aggrieved by such decision may, within ten days, appeal therefrom to the Superior Court for the judicial district within which such town or borough is located.” This decision will be emailed to the Board of Selectmen, interested parties and posted around the trees before 4 p.m. July 16, 2024. Subsequently, it will also be posted on the Town Clerk’s board, the town web site under Legal Notices and the Tree Warden page, and published in The Hour, Norwalk, CT