

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

November 1, 2022

**Notice of Final Decision of the Tree Warden
Regarding Three (3) Trees at 66 Valley Forge Road**

A virtual Public Hearing took place on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022 at 4 p.m. following a Notice of Removal posting on three trees on Oct. 14, 2022 at 66 Valley Forge Road. As required by Chapter 451, Section 23-59 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the hearing was called because a written e-mail comment was received by the Tree Warden on Oct. 20, 2022 within 10 days of the postings. The comment by T. J. Seifert asked for reconsideration of the removals based on a general observation that too many trees are being removed in town and the trees noticed “look like perfectly normal trees.” By Oct. 27, 2022, the notice of the public hearing was posted on the trees, the Town Clerk’s Board in Town Hall, the Town website Meeting Calendar and the Tree Warden page, where documents related to this hearing can be found. In addition, all interested parties (property owners, L. Warner, R. Thorsell, objector, T.J. Seifert, town administrator J. Luiz, arborist M. Hurley) were notified individually by email and acknowledged receipt. Ms Warner and Margaret Wirtenberg attended the hearing and spoke in favor of the removal. The hearing notice, Mr. Seifert’s objection letter and Mr. Hurley’s professional assessment of the condition of the trees letter were read into the hearing record.

After careful consideration and having objectively reviewed the facts and opinions presented during the hearing and documents made part of the hearing record, I have ruled in the following manner on the posted trees listed above and referenced again below:

It is my decision that the oak 24 inches in diameter near the garage and the oak 20 inches in diameter and maple 18 inches diameter over towering the dwelling are approved for removal due to proximity to these high-risk targets, trunk decay on the 24-inch oak near the garage and compaction of soil around the roots and general declining conditions evidenced by dead branches and canopy loss on all three trees.

This decision is based upon the Tree Warden’s inspection of the trees, review of the record including the objection letter and the report on the condition of the trees from a Connecticut licensed arborist holding an International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) and the property owners’ request. The owners noted that tree limbs have struck the residence from trees on the heavily wooded property. Therefore, the property owners have the Tree Warden’s permission to remove the trees in a safe manner at their expense using the services of a Connecticut licensed arborist who also provides a Certificate of Insurance Liability naming the Town of Weston and upon advance notification to the Weston Police Department and Department of Public Works when the work will be scheduled.

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 posted on the trees and on Town Clerk’s Board and the Tree Warden page on the town web site and sent by e-mail to the interested parties.