

**Office of Tree Warden
Town of Weston
56 Norfield Road
Weston, CT 06883
January 13, 2023**

Notice of Final Decision of the Tree Warden Regarding Tree Removal Notice at the Town of Weston Moore Property, Lords Highway East (Assessor Map 17 Block 1 Lot 17)

A virtual Public Hearing took place on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 at 4 p.m. following the Dec. 13, 2022 individual Notice of Tree Removal postings on 79 live and 38 dead trees seven inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) or larger at the subject property. Also, a placard at the entrance of the area called attention to the individual postings and further indicated all smaller trees and shrubs within the defined area of approximately one acre are to be removed. As required by Chapter 451, Section 23- 59 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the hearing was called because written objections to the removal were received on Dec. 14, 15, 19 and 20, within the 10-day notice period.

The purpose of the hearing was to take further public comments on the Dec. 13, 2022 postings, including those of the Tree Warden and documentation to inform this decision. The postings were made at the request of town officials in control of the property for purposes of construction and improvements within the area. Those improvements include a 20-foot accessway, two parking areas for seven and 13 cars and a turnaround for emergency vehicles, a storm water system and associated regrading as described in the Overall Site Plan “Weston Dog Park” SE1 revised 3-23-22 prepared by McChord Engineering Associates.

The hearing was legally noticed Dec. 29, 2022 on the Weston Town Clerk’s bulletin board, the Town of Weston website under Legal Notices and the Tree Warden page. The notice was also sent to interested parties. Notices were also posted Jan. 2, 2023 near the chain at the Lords Highway East property entrance. A notice was published in The Hour of Norwalk, CT on Jan. 3, 2023. All documents related to this hearing have been posted on the Tree Warden page on the town website prior to the hearing.

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:

The individually posted trees and all smaller trees and shrubs may be removed in a safe manner, after Board of Selectmen authorization, with the following recommended conditions:

1. The Board of Selectmen incorporate, in the construction bid specifications, the Tree Warden’s conceptual plan for revegetation of the cleared area not used for parking and access, and, the State Forester’s recommendations for invasive removal, along with the McChord Engineering storm water management and overall construction plan.
2. At the construction phase, the Tree Warden be consulted in the field on whether any trees in good condition noticed for removal may be saved by slight adjustments in the plan such as eliminating two or three parking spots from each parking area or slightly altering the position of the accessway and turnaround. Also, the Tree Warden be consulted on the proper protection of nearby remaining trees and their roots.

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 at the subject property before and the Town Clerk’s board before 4 p.m. Jan. 13, 2023. Subsequently, it will also be posted on the town web site under Legal Notices and Tree Warden page, and published in The Hour, Norwalk, CT.