

Tree Advisory Committee

05.18.18

Mission:

The Tree Advisory Committee works to promote the improvement and preservation of a healthy environment as it relates to public trees. The committee will provide advisory recommendations for the planting, maintenance, protection and removal of trees on public streets, parks and City-owned properties.

Members:

All members of the Tree Advisory Committee must be residents of the City. Any City resident interested in this position is encouraged to apply. Those with a background in arboriculture, landscape architecture and streetscape design may be particularly interested in applying. The Committee shall consist of at least five voting members, one member will be from the Conservation Advisory Committee and one member will be from the Garden Club, all members of the Committee shall be residents of the City of Beacon and shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Highway Superintendent, Assistant to the Mayor, and the Director of Recreation shall be designated Ex Officio non-voting members.

Length of term:

This committee's term is three (3) years, except for the initial membership terms which will be staggered in three, two and one-year increments.

Definitions

Certified Arborist: A person certified by the International Society of Arboriculture as having specialized knowledge, experience, and training related to arboriculture.

Diseased Tree: Any tree or shrub with a combination of structural defects and/or a health condition, which makes it subject to a high probability of failure.

Hazardous Tree: Any tree or shrub, public or private, with visibly defined structural defects likely to cause failure of all or part of the tree and be a danger to public safety.

Public Tree: All trees and shrubs on any City park or other property owned or controlled by the City on any public street, alley, median, sidewalk, or highway within the public right-of-way, as well as school district trees.

Private Tree: Any tree or shrub or any substantial portion of a tree, shrub, or plant which is in a private location along a public right-of-way.

Street Tree: Any tree or shrub located on either side of all streets, avenues, bike paths, and located within the bound of all City rights-of-way.

Tree: Any self-supporting woody plant together with its root system, growing upon the earth with one trunk of at least three inches in diameter at a height of four and one-half feet above the ground, or a multi-stemmed trunk system with a definitively formed crown.

Powers and Duties:

The Tree Advisory Committee shall:

- A. make recommendations to the City Staff regarding removal, pruning or planting of any public tree(s);
- B. be responsible for keeping an inventory of all trees in the City, including all public spaces;
- C. promote tree maintenance City-wide;
- D. submit an annual tree Report to the City Council on its activities and make recommendation on the location and type of proposed donated trees;
- E. work in cooperation with the Highway Superintendent, from time to time recommend features, plans and programs relating to tree improvements to the City Council;
- F. develop a street tree master plan;
- G. assist City staff and the Planning Board in reviewing tree landscape plans, upon request;
- H. assist the Building Department with comments on tree replacement pursuant to the Chapter 204 of the Code of the City of Beacon regarding tree planting and maintenance requirements, upon request;
- I. educate citizens of the City about benefits, care and threats to trees;
- J. assist in organizing an annual Arbor Day celebration; and
- K. carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Mayor.