

TOWN OF ENFIELD

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES October 24th, 2002

A Public Hearing was duly convened at 7:00 PM on October 24th, 2002 at Whitney Hall located off Main Street, Enfield NH.

Present:

Keith Oppeneer, Selectman
April Whittaker, Town Manager
Howard Adams, Building Inspector

Mr. Oppeneer opened the meeting by reading the Public Notice and confirmation of the posting requirements (see enclosed copies), and advised that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public comment with respect to possible tree removal of certain trees located within proximity of the new Community Building abutting Huse Park.

Mr. Parr, Grafton County Extension Forester, provided written recommendations (see enclosed copy) with respect to and commented upon the following: -

- ❑ Northern White Cedar located immediately in front of the new Building: He noted basal wounds, soil compaction, restricted rooting area, constant exposure to road salt and extensive dead wood. Verbal recommendation at the Public Hearing for tree takedowns.
- ❑ Black Locust: He advised that the tree was now regarded as an “invasive species and soon to be illegal to plant or propagate.” His examination of 9 locusts trees exposed common problems, and noted that trees 6,8, 9 should be removed as soon as possible due to liability exposure from dead and falling branches. Further recommendation to eventual removal of all locust trees.
- ❑ Black Walnuts: Appeared vigorous and should be pruned and saved.
- ❑ Tree Re-Planting: Recommended that replacement trees be such that they are readily adaptable for the site, and that a good site plan should be the foundation in which to

make planting recommendations once the town has had an opportunity to work on future site layout.

Mr. Adams presented photographs of the impaired trees, and given the multi-generational use of the new building, urged action to take care of the concerns as outlined by Mr. Parr.

Mitch Leonard and Barbara Brady, present in the audience, supported tree take down for the most badly diseased although Mrs. Brady expressed a wish that new trees should be planted and that tree take downs should be delayed over a period of years to allow new trees to mature. Mr. Parr advised that such an action would compromise potential full growth of any new trees especially if planted within close proximity of the diseased trees. Once again, Mr. Oppenheimer focused on the town's need to provide a thorough and adequate site plan prior to any new plantings, and felt it may be of value to revisit Mr. McIntyre's original community building plan with Mr. Daniels, DPW director.

Mr. Adams advised of volunteer efforts with respect to new plantings, and tree takedowns. Mr. Parr cautioned that tree takedowns require expertise and that the town should ensure adequate liability if volunteers are used in such efforts.

General discussion ensued regarding care and growth potential of trees.

There being no further business, Mr. Oppenheimer officially closed the hearing at 7:48 PM and advised that the Board of Selectmen will be making a decision in the near future with regards to tree take downs.

Respectfully Submitted
April Whittaker, Town Manager and Recording Secretary.