

6/26/2023

Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee  
29 July 2023 Agenda Amended

**\* Welcome to new member Lilia Ramos-Dries**

**\*Approval of the March 15, 2023 Minutes** (Attachment 1)

**\*Comments from Residents** (*Please limit in-person comments to 3 minutes*)

**\*Correspondence**

- Tree Donation, Josh Koller & Pypestream Staff (Attachment 2)
- 629 Fairway Ave, Thank you (Attachment 3)
- 130 Beach regarding Tompkins Farm Oak and other issues (Attachment 4)
- Carroll Ave. regarding trees next to dog park (Attachment J-1)
- 130 Beach regarding various matters (Attachment J-3)

**\*Old Business**

**VOM Inspection for Maintenance or Removal** *Please provide street numbers when reporting tree-related issues*

- May requests (Attachment 5)
- June requests (Attachment J-4)
- Tompkins Farm Oak inspection
- Requests for maintenance on two trees (Attachment 6)

**Public and Private Tree Removals, Applications, Violations**

- 430 Claflin inspection for removing a beech tree (Attachment 7)

**Tree Law Update**

- Revision to Tree Law
  - o Replacement requirements for 3"- 8" trees on steep slopes or in wetland buffer zones
- Planting BROW and Tree Scholarships

**Reporting Active Tree Removals – How to do it?**

**Spring Planting**

- Bishop St trees
- 19-20 of carry over trees need replacement (Attachment 8)
- Worksheets for new tree locations distributed

**Guided Tree Walk May 21** – Columbus Park, eleven participants

**\*New Business**

- Tree Scholarships and BROW
- Letter to County Executive regarding replacement trees at Water Treatment Plant (Attachment J-2)
- Should we have a Tree Committee information table at VOM Summer Block Party? Wednesday, July 26, from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Rescheduling summer Tree Committee meetings

**\*Other Business**

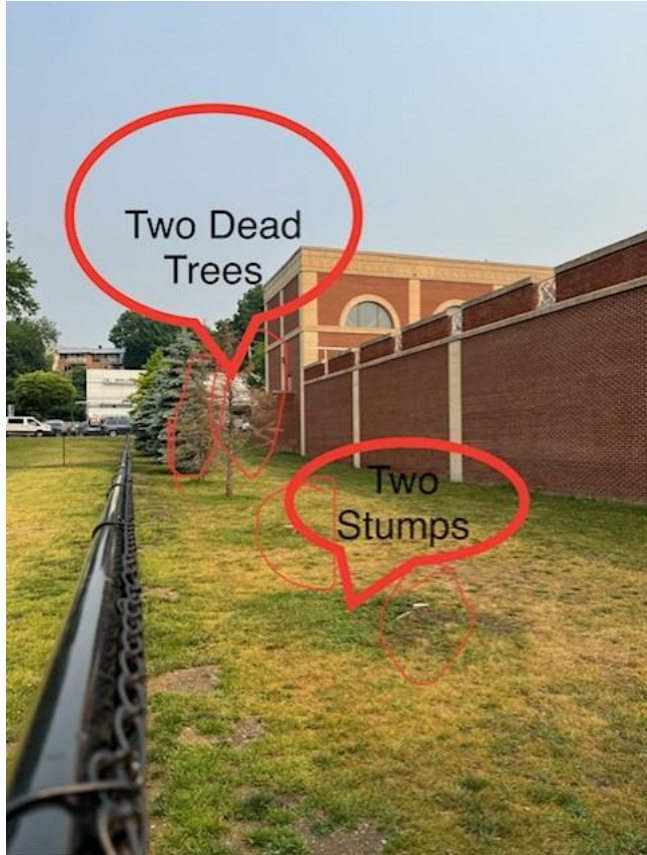
**\*Calendar Notes**

- Wednesday, July 5, 7:30 pm, Tree Committee meeting. CHANGE DATE?

**Attachment J-1**  
**Carroll Avenue Regarding Trees Next To Dog Park**

Hi Beverley, I hope you're doing well! Just reporting these 2 dead trees and 2 chopped trees next to the new dog park in harbor island. Jeff





Sent from my iPhone

**Attachment J-2**  
**Letter to County Executive**

Dear George,

Thank you for visiting Wednesday's meeting of the Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee. Your visits always remind committee members that our work contributes to the County's overall efforts for conservation and climate mitigation.

You'll recall that we talked about the trees at the County Water Treatment Plant next to Harbor Island Park. Four of the trees have died, including two that have already been removed and leave just stumps. I've attached photographs from a resident showing the locations.

We would appreciate having these trees replaced. Please consider using a species that can tolerate the aerosol and soil salt that are frequently problems in the park because it's located next to our harbor. I know one native evergreen that is salt tolerant is the eastern red cedar, but I'm sure there are others.

Please come see us again!

Sincerely yours,  
Beverley Sherrid  
Chairman, Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee

**Attachment J-3**  
**130 Beach Ave regarding various matters**

Dear Chair and Members of the Tree Committee,

After being distracted by the stunning statement that the Tompkins Farm Oak (TFO) is not a Village Tree I am writing you with my other observations about Village trees.

But first, regarding the the Mayor's response stating that "I first heard about the TFO when I was campaigning for office in 2001 with Mayor Chapin. We met you on Beach Ave and you said that because of work that had been done the tree wouldn't survive 5 years." My initial response said "I don't believe I ever said that." Rereading his email included in your upcoming agenda I am certain I never said that. The initial work that damaged the Tompkins Farm Oak was not done until 2022!

The Tree Committee should remember to be skeptical of things the Manager and Mayor tell them as they will frequently just say things whether true or not.

**Spring Planting - Dead trees**

Over the last week I've noticed at least a 15 newly planted dead or dying trees, including the Library Centennial tree, the tree in the traffic calming bump out on Fennimore, and two in the pollinator garden on Fayette. The below photo of one of the two dead trees on Munro may indicate a reason, poor planting practices. If your March minutes are correct and the Village only planted 60 trees this spring an attrition rate of 25% is concerning.



### **Planting Practices**

I also visited the Mamaroneck Avenue School (MAS) neighborhood. I was amazed to see that four years after claiming in a grant application that it was an underserved,

Environmental Justice Area lacking green infrastructure that not one tree has been planted there. Not one tree despite 400-500 trees being planted since the grant.

The hypocrisy and implicit bias exhibited by the ignoring of the MAS neighborhood is brought into sharper relief by the overplanting of trees on Melbourne Avenue and other affluent neighborhoods. Melbourne Avenue, a short street, alone received over twenty trees, with one house having five trees crammed in front of it.

Below are a number of photos of over planting, two maples planted within 12 feet of each other, two white oaks within 15 feet of each other, a maple planted within ten feet of an existing tree, cherry trees within ten feet of each other, and this is only a sampling. Meanwhile, no trees for the MAS neighborhood!

Below are the guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2010 for planting street trees. The guidelines are on the Tree Committee's webpage. They guidelines are common sense, designed to avoid overcrowding and increased potential for insect, disease and maintenance issues as the trees mature.

- Trees that mature at less than 40 feet shall be planted at least 30 feet from any adjacent tree.
- Trees that mature at more than 40 feet shall be planted at least 40 feet from any adjacent tree.

### **New Tree Law**

"No later than August 1, 2021, the Village Manager will cause to be prepared a list of significant trees. The list will be available for public inspection in the Village Manager's office." When can I inspect that list?

"The Tree Committee must.....Review any proposal by the Village Manager or the Village Manager's designee to remove a tree on public property." I see no evidence on your agendas that this is being done.

Establishing reasonable laws and guidelines regarding the planting and maintenance of trees is important but largely meaningless if they are not adhered to. Going forward, for the betterment of our urban forest, I urge the Tree Committee to more attentive to adhering to the laws and guidelines provided.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert



<b><u>Attachment</u></b>			
<b><u>VOM Tree Inspection, pruning, removals -- June 2023</u></b>			
Address		Street	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
	<b><u>Inspection</u></b>		
		Carroll @ Post Road, school side	Oak, struggling
<b><u>Pruning/Maintenance</u></b>			
	420	S Barry	Large elm (significant tree) has black cherry growing
<b><u>Removal</u></b>			
	209	Carroll	trimmer damage, bad pruning
		Melbourne on Tompkins	pear tree, dying, Con Ed pruning damage
	510	Prospect	dead

6/4/2023

Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee  
7 June 2023 Agenda

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**Reporting Active Tree Removals – How to do it?**

**Spring Planting**

- Bishop St trees
- 19-20 of carry over trees need replacement (Attachment 8)

**Guided Tree Walk May 21** – Columbus Park, eleven participants

**\*New Business**

**\*Other Business**

**\*Calendar Notes**

- Wednesday, July 5, 7:30 pm, Tree Committee meeting. See new schedule (Attachment -)
- Wednesday, June 15, 4:15 pm, CFTE Butterfly Garden dedication at Sarah Neuman Nursing Home, 845 Palmer Ave

**Attachment 1**  
**Draft: Minutes of Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee meeting**  
**March 15, 2023**  
**Regatta Conference Room**

**Present:**

Jerry Barberio, village manager  
Beverley Sherrid, Chair  
Wendy Zoland  
Sarah Evans  
Krishna Finkenberg  
Marlene Star

\*Call to order: 7:35 pm

**\*Approval of the February 15, 2023 Minutes**

**\*Correspondence**

- Henry Ave. question about street markings next to trees answered by Bev
- 540 Munro, requested new tree on Munro instead of Delancey; pruning of Delancey trees
- 330 Beach – Implicit Bias accusation. VOM has planted 36 trees on Howard and Lester. Tree Committee response: would have planted 57 but faced resistance from residents or utilities got in the way.
- The Parkway, Question about the condition of Sycamore. Peeling bark is normal.
- Prospect Ave. Resident thanked us for new trees and requested more but other residents declined.
- 330 Beach regarding Tompkins Farm Oak conditions. It is not a VOM tree.
- 1501 Pine Knoll Lane asked for new tree and stump removal

**\*Old Business**

VOM Inspection for Maintenance or Removal

- Google doc for committee use
- 1410 Shadow Lane, Tree Inspection Report from DPW is done. Jerry to send letter about Rye trees to Town of Rye administrator. Will replace VOM tree with a willow, as it is more resistant to root rot.
- 216 Melbourne, Question about action planned for street tree – pruning only.

Public and Private Tree Removals, Applications, Violations

- Revised Tree Permit Application shown to committee
- Tree inspection invitations to accompany Village Manager
- 1505 Stoneybrook regarding application to remove 7 more trees. Jerry asked resident for certified arborist opinion.

Tree Law Update

- 664 Shore Acres Drive violation issued for illegal removal
- In first year of new law, VOM received 89 permit applications as of 12/31.

Tree removal applications now part of building permit procedure.  
Village lawyer to add tree question to Board of Architectural review applications.

#### Tree Maintenance Budget

Reduced from \$60k to \$40k for 2023-24 budget year due to budget constraints

#### Spring Planting

- Planting of 60 trees may begin third week of April depending on weather
- Letters sent to property owners about new ROW trees, some declined trees

#### \*Calendar Notes

- 4/19/23, Regatta Conference Room, 7:30 pm, Tree Committee meeting
- **22 April 2023, rescheduled** Library Centennial Celebration, Tree Planting at Rushmore Ave Playground, HIP

\*Adjourned 8:40 pm

**Attachment 2**  
**Tree Donation – Josh Koller & Pypestream Staff**

Hi Josh. Thank you. This is an amazing idea.

BTW, I'm a big fan of your Mom.

I have copied Dan Sarnoff, Deputy VM, Mayor Murphy, liaison to the Tree Committee, and Jeff Ahne, Parks General Foreman. We will put a plan together and get back to you very soon.

I'll make sure we have several dates that will work. I have also taken the liberty of copying the tree committee members. We work very closely together.

Have a great weekend. We will talk, via email, soon. JB

**Jerry Barberio**  
*Village Manager*

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**From:** Josh Koller <joshlmkoller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 4:48 PM  
**To:** Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>  
**Cc:** Gail Koller <gail.koller18@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Tree Planting - Josh Koller, Pypestream Group

Hi Jerry,

Thanks very much for your help in coordinating a potential corporate volunteer tree planting at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck.

I work as an Engagement Manager for Pypestream a digital NY based company and a group of our employees would like to take a positive collective action for Earth Day/Month.

We would love to make a donation specifically by way of purchasing tree(s) to then plant at HIP to help provide natural shade and shelter, improve air quality, promote biodiversity and ameliorate flooding, particularly after the loss of trees at the park following severe storms.

My budget to put towards the purchase of trees is dependent on my final headcount of company participants, figuring approximately \$50 per person with an upper limit of 15 to 20 participants.

We would of course like to buy trees that are best suited and most helpful for the specific environment so once we know what to look for - and if given the village's approval, we can move forward with securing the trees and scheduling a date.

Thanks again for your help in making this possible and helping us contribute to a greener Earth!

If you have any questions or need other information from me please let me know.

Best,  
Josh

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**Josh Koller**  
(C) 914-434-2063

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Jerry,

I'm overwhelmed by the positive response to our idea both from you and others offline - thank you! I hope the Trustees were amenable to the idea if it came up at this week's meeting, and I'm excited to talk next steps with you whenever appropriate and convenient.

Talk soon,

Josh

**Attachment 3**  
**Thank you for the new trees**

Hi Beverley,

Just a quick note to say thank you again.

Both trees blossomed last week.

They look great.

Best,

Sean



**Attachment – 4**  
**330 Beach regarding Tompkins Farm Oak and other issues**

Dear Mayor Murphy,

I don't believe I ever said that, this is just case of you again making up things about me to deflect from real issues.

I spent years in the tree business. I paid for the Consulting Arborist opinion on what effect the proposed trenching through the Tompkins Farm Oak's root system would have. I have fought have the Village act responsible to preserve it's health for 30 years. What have you done?

Anyone who know anything about how 300 year old trees die after construction damage know that it takes decades. Given that you likely don't know the difference between a maple and oak I don't expect you would.

The Tompkins Farm Oak will likely "live" longer than both of us. Unfortunately, hose of us who care about it will have to watch it's long sad demise.

This inspection was superficial and unprofessional and all your deflection won't change that.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

On Monday, March 27, 2023 at 07:25:47 AM EDT, Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org> wrote:

I first heard about the TFO when I was campaigning for office in 2001 with Mayor Chapin. We met you on Beach Ave and you said that because of work that had been done the tree wouldn't survive 5 years.

I am so glad to see that it still lives.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

On Mar 27, 2023, at 6:26 AM, stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Chair and Members of the Tree Committee,

I am writing because apparently a year and half after I first wrote the TC about the decline of the Tompkins Farm Oak someone went and inspected it and reported that it "looks healthy but could use some pruning"

I don't know who offered that opinion but, seriously? Looks healthy?

Did whoever inspected the tree look at the image below of it a year and half ago showing the thinning of the crown and branch tip dieback? Why did a year and half pass before an inspection was done in the dead of winter? Did they not notice the several major pieces of dangerous deadwood overhanging the public street and adjacent properties?

In the words of the John McEnroe, "You cannot be serious!" that this passes as an credible inspection of the condition of the Village's oldest tree.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

On Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 08:40:28 AM EST, stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Chair and Members of the Tree Committee,

Please see below an image of a large piece of deadwood that fell out of the Tompkins Farm Oak last night

Over a year ago, I wrote the TC -

"Six months ago I wrote the TC about the marked decline of the Tompkins Farm Oak (TFO), the oldest tree in the VOM, my original email is appended below. I have attached a recent photo below that shows the large pieces of deadwood overhanging the Pine Street roadway and cars that park under the canopy.

Trustee Lucas, who lives across the street, is knowledgeable of the history of community efforts to protect the TFO as well as the history of the Village ignoring common sense preservation recommendations from the NYSDEC Arborist that has led to it's untimely demise.

Except for putting my email on an agenda I don't think there has been any discussion of teachable moments from the TFO's untimely decline or steps going forward for possibly extending it's life and mitigating dangers from it's continuing decline. I hope the TC will take this up in the future."

I don't believe than in a year and a half any action has been taken to either evaluate whether anything can be done to help preserve the Tompkins Farm Oak's life or remove the clearly dangerous deadwood in the tree.

As I have expressed before, for those in the neighborhood who worked for years to protect this tree, it's disappointing how little interest the Tree Committee or Village have shown in caring for and preserving this

piece of Village history.

I urge you to take some meaningful action, if only to reduce the liability.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com>

To: TreeCom <treecom@vomny.org>; trees@vomny.org <trees@vomny.org>

Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 at 09:49:26 AM EST

Subject: Fw: The Tompkins Farm Oak is in decline

Dear Chairs and Members of the Tree Committee,

Happy to New Year to everyone.

Here are a few issues I hope to see addressed in the coming months

Tree Law and ANSI 300 Standards -

The new Tree Law was approved four months ago but as of this morning Chapter 318 has not been update with the new law.

I provided the Village with a digital copy of the ANSI 300 Standards to the Village over two months ago and as of this morning I cannot find it on the Village website as the Planning Board requested would be done.

If property owners are expected to comply with the new Tree Law and the ANSI 300 Standards I believe they should at least be made available on the website.

Fall 2021 Tree Planting

Below are photos of two trees planted in Harbor Island Park. The first image is of an acceptable tree, the second is not and I don't believe it should have been accepted by the Village any year but certainly not under the exorbitant prices the Village paid for trees under the present contract. I urge the TC to ask the Village Manager to be more selective in what trees he accepts for planting.

Tompkins Farm Oak

Six months ago I wrote the TC about the marked decline of the Tompkins Farm Oak (TFO), the oldest tree in the VOM, my original email is appended below. I have attached a recent photo below that shows the large pieces of deadwood overhanging the Pine Street roadway and cars that park under the canopy.

Trustee Lucas, who lives across the street, is knowledgeable of the history of community efforts to protect the TFO as well as the history of the Village ignoring common sense preservation recommendations from the NYSDEC Arborist that has led to it's untimely demise.

Except for putting my email on an agenda I don't think there has been any discussion of teachable moments

from the TFO's untimely decline or steps going forward for possibly extending it's life and mitigating dangers from it's continuing decline. I hope the TC will take this up in the future.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com>

To: TreeCom <treecom@vomny.org>; trees@vomny.org <trees@vomny.org>

Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021, 06:23:45 AM EDT

Subject: The Tompkins Farm Oak is in decline

Dear Chairs and Members of the Tree Committee,

The oldest known tree in the Village, the Tompkins Farm Oak (TFO), is in sharp decline as can be seen in the photo below. The crown has thinned significantly and there are multiple branches, from the bottom to the top, where terminal end growth has stopped.

This is especially sad for the Tompkins Farm Oak neighborhood which for thirty years led the efforts to protect the tree from damage by developers and the Village.

I hope the Board will advise the BOT to take prudent steps to determine the present condition of the tree and any steps that may prolong it's life.

My suggestion would be that the Village hire a Consulting Arborist to evaluate the TFO.

Please don't let the Village Manager hire Frank Buddingh or Ken Almstead of Almstead Tree.

Mr. Buddingh is not a consulting arborist and is conflicted because he was the arborist the Village hired in 2012 to greenlight the work, against the NYSDEC Forester's recommendations, that likely put the kiss of death on the TFO.

Ken Almstead is a consulting arborist but his company will get paid to do any work on the tree. Also, it was Almstead Tree that was hired by the Village in 2012 to supervise the Pine Street excavation below the TFO and allowed contractor to ignore the preservation plan for the TFO.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

**Tree Committee Requests for VOM Tree Evaluation, Pruning or Removal Attachment 5**

**May-23**

**Inspection**

**No.**

**Street**

235

S. Barry

trimmer damage

**Possible Removal**

409

Fennimore

dead

515

English on Franklin

dead

910

Keeler

trimmer damage

**Request for Street Tree Maintenance (Attachment 6)**

Hello Beverly and VoM tree committee,

By way of this email I am requesting that the tree committee please:

- 1) Prune the suckers at the base of the large tree at the corner of Carroll Avenue and Lorena Street in Mamaroneck.
- 2) Replace the recently planted dead tree near the Bellows School on Carroll Avenue.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 917-494-7875.

Thank you,  
Jeff Langus  
305 Carroll Avenue, Mamaroneck

**430 Claflin, Inspection for beech tree (Attachment 7)**

I am just following up on the below. Our arborist came to see a few trees on the property today and was especially concerned about the safety of the beech tree. It is essentially dead. There are fungi/mushrooms growing from the dead roots. We have placed a sign under the tree to make sure passerbys do not linger.

From my understanding based on the location of the tree, this is a tree owned by the town.

Please advise on best next steps.

Thank you,  
Sohita Torgalkar

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**Subject:** Re: Tree Permit

Hi Jerry,

I am emailing in follow up about the tree on our property (430 Claflin Avenue, see email chain below). We have treated the tree for the past year and have diligently pruned the tree as much as possible. However, the tree is now literally dropping branches on a daily basis. We are concerned that it is a danger to anyone walking near the tree (it hangs over the corner of Claflin and Sylvan). Please advise if we should reapply for a permit.

Thank you,  
Sohita Torgalkar  
917-923-8726

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On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 5:49 PM Sohita Torgalkar <[sohita@gmail.com](mailto:sohita@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Hi Jerry,

Thank you for your email.

As you can understand, this is a special tree on our property.

We have been working with arborists for years to try and save the tree.

Over the last year, we have had two reputable tree companies (Emerald Tree Care and SavATree) recommend removal of the tree due to their opinion of progressive beech tree disease.

The arborists were concerned about the risk for serious injury and death from sudden breakage of the large branches.

Per the arborists' recommendations, we applied for the permit.

We forwarded your report to the arborists who continue to strongly disagree.

Nevertheless, per your report, the arborists have now pruned the tree to remove dangerous limbs and to help promote growth in any viable branches.

Thank you for your time,  
Sohita Torgalkar  
430 Claflin Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

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No need to reapply. I will ask the Tree Committee members to join me in a second assessment early next week or the week after.

Thank you for being a great tree citizen and investing in the care of your wonderful trees.

JB

**Jerry Barberio**



## 2023 New Trees Dead or Struggling -- Attachment 8

<u>Number</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Comment</u>
406	Tompkins	struggling or dead
412	Tompkins	struggling or dead
424	Tompkins	struggling or dead
536	Munro	dead
540	Munro	dead
708	Munro	dead
718	Munro	dead
718	Munro	dead
405	Cortland on Fennimore	dead
118	Wagner	oak, not leafed out
540	Lawn Terrace	oak, not leafed out
540	Lawn Terrace	london plane, not leafed out
118	Wagner	oak, not leafed out
	West basin island	dead
605	Lorraine on Jefferson	dead
406	Tompkins	struggling
424	Tompkins	struggling or dead
1333	Birch Hill	dead
	Hillside at Howard	dead
	Carroll @ Lorena	new-ish, needs to be removed