

3/3/2024

Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee
March 6, 2024 Agenda

***Welcome back Gail Koller!**

***Approval of the February 7, 2024 Minutes** (*Attachment 1*)

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

***Correspondence**

- 130 Beach Regarding Notice of Line Clearing (*Attachment 2*)
- Trees between TOM Center and MHS (*Attachment 3*)

***Old Business**

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

- VOM trees for inspection
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lg-QtdV6So5hl4XDm4Usf8jghZXhA-9ZIYpySaxYjVU/edit>
- Dead tree at 209 Carroll (*Attachment 4*)
- 305 Carroll Ave, Large VOM Tree Taken Down (*Attachments 5 & 6*)

New Trees

- Bishop Ave (*Attachment 7*)
 - o Schematic for new trees (*Attachment 8*)
 - o Dan Sarnoff is researching MetroNorth permissions
 - o Question to VOM Engineer about need for storing equipment temporarily (*Attachment 9*)
 - o Remaining budget \$4,680
 - o Spring planting will be entirely on Bishop and will cover approximately half (44 trees) of projected 90 – 96
- List in formation of other locations will carry over to fall and new budget
- **New Sidewalks in Washingtonville** (*Attachment 10*)

Tree Law

- **Report tree removals**
 - o Business hours, Building Dept **(914) 777-7731**
 - o After hours & weekends, Police **(914) 777-1122**

417 N. Barry appeal of permit application

Heritage Trees

Village Arborist Status

Guion Creek Bird Sanctuary Ownership (*Attachment 11*)

***New Business**

Revised Tree Committee page on VOM website (*Attachment 12*)

Florence Park Renovations (*Attachment 13 & 14*)

Follow Up Procedure for Replanting Requirements

Are there state grants available for sidewalk replacements in underserved neighborhoods?

***Other Business**

***Calendar Notes**

- Next meeting Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 pm
- Spring tree walk, May 5, 1:00 pm, Otter Creek Preserve, Taylor Lane entrance
- Fall tree walk, October 27, 1:00 pm, location TBA

3/2/2024

**Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee
February 7, 2024 Minutes DRAFT**

Present: Beverley Sherrid, Marlene Star, Lilia Ramos-Dries, Krishna Finkenberg, Michelle Goodman, Lelainie Yizar-Reid, George Latimer, Gail Koller

The meeting was convened at 7:44 pm

***Approval of the January 3, 2024 Minutes** VOTE

***Old Business**

Tree maintenance

- Discussion of DPW response to 2/7 Request for Inspection (Minutes Addition 1)
- Shore Acres Drive Bird Sanctuary
 - o Trees pruned or removed for safety; 5 trees of heaven removed
 - o George Latimer will find out what entity owns the sanctuary

New Trees -- BROW offer will made with fall planting

Tree Law

- Appeals hearings for clearcutting postponed (Minutes Addition 2)
- **Report tree removals**
 - o Business hours, Building Dept (914) 777-7731
 - o After hours & weekends, Police (914) 777-1122

Heritage Trees

- Further updates from Chris Hillyer (Minutes Addition x)
- Introduce program with Heritage Tree treasure hunt

***New Business**

417 N. Barry appeal of permit application Recommend granting appeal VOTE

Tompkins Farm Oak – Recommend pruning per arborist opinions VOTE

***Other Business**

***Calendar Notes**

- Next meeting Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 pm
- Spring tree walk, May 5, 1:00 pm, Otter Creek Preserve, Taylor Lane entrance
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2024.2.7 Trees for Inspection Report

Thank you. Very helpful.

I completely agree about removing trees (and river debris) for public safety.

I think the stumps and roots should be left in the ground in locations such as river banks and the sanctuary – the roots continue to stabilize the ground for years to come, and both stumps and roots have significant wildlife benefits. These are sanctuaries, not soccer fields.

I would like to talk further about taking dead wood out of the sanctuary. Again, it has enormous role in ecological life cycles that we can't offer in regular parks or on (most people's) private property/lawns. Can we talk later?

Thank you!
Beverley
James Barney

Beverley Sherrid

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In regard to this list.

Carroll street at post road. This tree has been pruned of deadwood in the last year and four years before that. It really should come down as it has outgrown its livable space and that is what is causing its continued decline. Unfortunately that is the same story with several other oaks on this block further down the road.

209 carroll needs to be removed and will be by DPW. I think This is the second planted tree we have removed from this location. If we plant again we should document damage.

510 prospect is lifting the sidewalk. It is also growing directly into the wires but is showing signs of decay. It is not a hazard at this time and we can re-assess at the next sidewalk complaint.

107 villa. If we are talking about the tree on Mamaroneck avenue, the entire tree is dead. It is on the list for removal.

Pirates cove island was pruned in entirety back in November.

Cove road at the first bend. This tree is completely deceased and is leaning toward the roadway. This road is a main walkway for kids attending hommocks school. There was discrepancy on ownership but it turns out it is the Village's. It will be going on the takedown list.

131 Florence. I would like to give this tree a chance to complete another life cycle before we make any decision on it.

Also, As for Grove st. We were tasked with removing almost 100 yards of material from the river after the flooding. In order to do that we needed to create an access point to be able to work. We removed several dangerous and/or dead trees in order to accommodate equipment in this area. We also replaced a storm sewer line that runs right through the area. These removals were necessary to complete emergency river and flood work. They were not for the cameras.

2024.2.7 Removing Trees for Public Safety

Oh, sorry to hear that but totally understand. Let me know when you may be able to come. We meet first Wednesdays of the month.

I think I responded to your explanation about removing dangerous trees in my previous email. When it's a matter of public safety, there's no question about removing trees.

Would appreciate more conversation about trees that are located deep on land that is not accessible to the public, also about the value of stumps, roots, and dead wood.

Beverley
James Barney

Beverley Sherrid

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Unfortunately, I can not make 730. I have a fire department commitment at 7:30. I just sent you a response to your list of trees as well as the grove street question.

I will try to make the next meeting to address the bird sanctuary or public safety question.

The short of the long of it, if someone points out a dangerous tree, ultimately it has to be taken down. If we ignore it, for whatever reason, whether wildlife advantages or esthetics, and someone gets hurt, the Village would be held negligent. Once our attention was pointed at the sanctuary, our hands were tied, and quite honestly, there is still a tremendous of dead wood that should be removed.

But Free for discussion at a later date.

Have a great evening.

James Barney
General Foreman of Public Works

Heritage Tree Program Updates

2/3/2024

Good morning Beverly. This is great.

1. I think the first priority would be to create a program and work to get a list and a plan for the HTs on VOM land. I expect there are a lot of HTs in the VOM.
2. I have not seen any decent forms for nomination but will continue to look.
3. Oregon seems to have a significant state program and puts up plaques for special trees. Such a plaque program might be of interest to the VOM and residents.
4. While the VOM may have control over maintenance of its own trees, I think an HTP within that might be valuable and could be publicized.
5. According to a survey I have, the large oak on my property on S Barry is on VOM ROW property. I am concerned about this tree as it is on bedrock and I am not sure how to assess its future. This is the one I wrote you previously had been called a Heritage Oak by the folks that fertilized it years ago – it must have been directed by the VOM. Any thoughts you have would be greatly appreciated.
6. The concept of a private HT being protected from development, as you write below: I did not mean to suggest that these would alter development and, you are of course right, it would be a mess legally. I meant VOM HTs in the ROW, which may be covered anyway (for example my oak if the MBYC was to run a sewer line up to the junction near your house as had been discussed at one point.

Please LMK if and how I can help.

THANKS!

Chris

.....
2/6/2024

Thank you again Chris! I will be taking these documents and suggestions into tomorrow's meeting. Although some of it is way beyond our current limited status with an HT program, reading about it will be a good beginning for thinking in an organized way.

I think you are right, our first step should be identifying trees on village property, since we can protect and maintain those trees. A contest for nominations is a great idea. Not only will it likely identify many more trees than we currently know about, it will also start people thinking about them and considering trees they know on private property.

Promoting the contest in the schools is probably the most effective way to start. I will see if anyone on the committee would like to design a flyer, including the criteria you set forth (but excluding invasive species such as the Bartlett pear described in the Fabio article) If I get a volunteer may I put him/her in touch with you about it?

I do appreciate what you're doing with this

Beverley

2/6/2024

Hi Beverly. This is all great! Yes, I would be happy to work with a volunteer. I have been working a bit more on it. DO you have access to a VOM map that shows the ROW for each street/area? I haven't been able to find, and it seems like its key in order to figure out what HTs are on what/whose property, etc. THANKS! Chris

2/6/2024

So far as I have ever been able to learn — and I've been asking about ROWs for 12 years — each one is unique to each property and the only way to determine it is by looking at the individual deeds. In other words, there's not a global solution.

I usually estimate it as the first 5' from the street but it's only an estimate and of course is affected by how wide or narrow the streets are.

The practical solution may be first to identify trees that may be in the ROW and then check those deeds. Given how large HTs generally are, it's likely that some will be on both public and private land. The village has been pretty good about taking responsibility for those trees, but give the recent changes, I don't know what will happen in those cases going forward. We'll have to anticipate questions.

Attachment 2
130 Beach Regarding Line Clearing Notice

Dear Chair and Member's of the Tree Committee,

Asplundh is in the Village doing line clearing. Two things:

In the past I had always received a door hanger the week prior to the line clearing work providing a number to call if residents had concerns about the work being done. I receive no door hanger this year.

In the past the Tree Committee and Village were proactive in providing notice that it was a line clearing year and providing the phone number to call if residents has concern about trees on or near their properties. Seemed like a good idea.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

Attachment 3
Trees between TOM Center and MHS

Hello! We're still thinking about how the section of Post Road between the TOM and MHS could be made environmentally and psychologically healthy. We spend much time in NYC and European cities, and many urban places have abundant trees growing, in scrappy little places, adding to the beauty, calm and quality of life, as of course you know.

So we're making another attempt - there's always a way to get something beautiful done. Perhaps this is the year. (The Harbor plantings look stunning, by the way!!)

It's the season to plant. Would you please consider planting a row of sensible trees, or even shrubs, along that dead, hot and sad section of walkway, that is becoming a trash heap? There used to be more trees and beautiful perennials along there - now lost and overgrown. Kindly consider making the section a "green space", which will add to the serenity of our lives, and be a good example for the school kids walking past.

Thanks so much. Links, for inspiration, pasted below.

-Kelly

Kelly Susa
914.320.6219

<https://www.reliance-foundry.com/blog/best-trees-for-streets-and-tree-grate>

Top 10 sidewalk trees for North American climates

- Cherry tree.
- Dogwood.
- Ginkgo.
- Hickory.
- Hornbeam.
- Japanese lilac tree.
- Linden.
- Pear tree (ornamental pear trees)



Thank you, Kelly.

Actually, we wanted to plant trees in that area several years ago. What we found is that the curb is broken down and too low next to the planting strip (ground between sidewalk and street). The Boston Post Road is a state road and NYS did not ground down the roadbed when they resurfaced. Consequently, parked cars are frequently partly on the strip. Not only would they easily damage new trees, but the ground itself is compacted and possibly contaminated.

That leaves the land on the other side of the sidewalk. It belongs to the school district. We asked for permission to plant trees but the district believes it would create safety concerns.

If you can find some solutions, please let us know.

Best wishes,
Beverley Sherrid
Chairman, VOM Tree Committee

Attachment 4
Dead Tree at 209 Carroll

Hi James,

I just noticed in my notes that you have responded last month about removing the tree at 209 Carroll.

You commented that this is the second tree removed at this location. I agree with your hesitation about planting another replacement. The tree has been completely encircled by trimmer damage, most likely the reason it died and probably the reason the first one died, too. We should not be planting trees where they will be destroyed by deliberate negligence.

Would it be possible to issue a violation or warning for destruction of Village property? Section 318-5 A (3) of the Tree Law states: "No person, including a person employed by or acting on behalf of a public utility, may injure or destroy any tree on public property."

Thank you.
Beverley

Attachment 5
Large Tree Taken Down on Carroll

Hi Beverley, happy new year and I hope you're well. Just sharing this with you in case you're not already aware. Another 100+ tree on Carroll Avenue chopped down for no apparent reason, not de-stumped and you can see there's no sign of insects or rot. Those are mens size 11 shoes, so the radius is probably 3'x 4'. Meanwhile, the dead baby tree that they planted, which I reported over a year ago, has still not been removed. Jeff





Jeff Langus

Attachment 6
Carroll Ave at Post Road Tree Removed

James Barney to Beverley Sherrid
TreeCom; Daniel Sarnoff

Please see the attachment.

I had advised you and Jerry this tree needed to come down when you sent me your list of inspections. We had another large limb come down in a wind storm so I had the tree removed as there was no canopy left and has rapidly deteriorated.

Carroll street at post road. This tree has been pruned of deadwood in the last year and four years before that. It really should come down as it has outgrown its livable space and that is what is causing its continued decline. Unfortunately that is the same story with several other oaks on this block further down the road.

.....

To James Barney:

Thank you. You're right. As you saw in my email sent simultaneously with yours to me, I lost track of your comments on the February list.

I will send these comments to the residents challenging the loss.

I'd appreciate a chance when you have time to walk Carroll and N. Barry to look at the potential sidewalk interference and decide which situation are beyond saving and which may be corrected by repairs using Structural Soil. I know DPW has introduced this repair alternative recently. It offers the possibility of saving some of the mature trees offering so many financial and quality of life advantages, and can be offset by the cost savings of not taking down large trees.

Beverley

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To Jeff Langus:

The tree at the corner of the BPR was not healthy. I had already asked DPW to inspect it as a possible public safety risk. I lost track of my own request (okay I was on vacation), and of their response:

Carroll street at post road. This tree has been pruned of deadwood in the last year and four years before that. It really should come down as it has outgrown its livable space and that is what is causing its continued decline. Unfortunately that is the same story with several other oaks on this block further down the road.

Additional comments today, 3/3/2024: We had another large limb come down in a wind storm so I had the tree removed as there was no canopy left and has rapidly deteriorated.

The Village recently introduced using Structural Soil under new pavements that are near trees, and, in certain cases, as part of sidewalk repair for root interference in an effort to save mature trees.

I hope this fledgling program will continue under the new administration. In the case of the tree at Carroll and BPR, unfortunately, the tree was already failing seriously.

Beverley

Attachment 7

Bishop Ave Trees

Good afternoon Gino,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my concern and frustration regarding the current situation on our residential street. Over the past few years, the removal of trees and the subsequent increase in noise from passing trains have already impacted the peacefulness of our neighborhood.

Recently, however, the situation has escalated with the storage of trucks and construction materials on our street, transforming it into what now resembles an industrial zone. This not only poses an eyesore for the residents but also significantly disrupts the tranquility of our street.

I kindly request the town's prompt attention to this matter. I understand the importance of development and infrastructure projects, but the adverse effects on our quality of life cannot be ignored. I urge the town to find a suitable alternative location for the storage of trucks and construction materials, ensuring the preservation of our residential street as a peaceful and aesthetically pleasing environment.

Your prompt action on this matter would be greatly appreciated by the residents of our community. Thank you for your attention to this pressing concern, and I look forward to a positive resolution.

Sincerely,

Natalia Rathbauer & Thomas Rathbauer

320 Bishop Ave.

Good morning Natalia,

Thank you for your e-mail.

We appreciate your concerns, specifically the issue with the area located on the northerly side of Bishop Avenue along the Railroad Tracks, which is currently being utilized as a temporary staging/storage area for our sewer rehabilitation contractor. After careful consideration of alternative Village owned properties, it was decided that this location was better suited to the needs of both the Village and the contractor for its centralized location with respect to the rehabilitation work locations scheduled for this year. Furthermore, it is the single location that is not situated either within the floodway and/or flood zone, is not already occupied by a Village

Facility, does not have accessibility issues, has adequate space for the contractor's equipment, and not a public park or paid hourly parking.

We understand the impact this may have to the residents on Bishop Avenue, specifically the visual and tranquility impact concerns you raised, rest assured that every effort will be made to minimize disruptions. To that end, I have instructed the contractor to install shielding/privacy screen on all the fencing facing Bishop Avenue to address the eyesore concerns and have changed the contractors starting start time to 7:30am to assist with minimizing early morning noise levels.

Please note that this will only be a temporary staging area and once the work is completed, will be returned to its former use.

We value your understanding and cooperation during the construction period.

Gino Frabasile, P.E.

.....

Good evening Gino,

Once again, we find ourselves witnessing work before 7 am, with the noise generated exceeding acceptable levels and disrupting our daily lives.

Having been a resident and a tax payer for close to 9 years, I personally experienced the devastating effects of the flood, which submerged our street, requiring boat rescues. It is disconcerting that the choice of this location may suggest a lack of awareness regarding this history. While we may not be located in a flood zone, in reality, we have flooded!

Moreover, the potential dangers during a flood, including floating debris, are alarming and pose a direct threat to the citizens' safety and our properties.

Can you guarantee that the work will be completed prior to the next flooding? Will the town take the responsibility for any possible damages?

I appreciate your attention to this matter. This is a residential zoning and this is extremely concerning.

All residents on the block want this construction equipment relocated.

Natalia

.....

Good morning once more,

The Village Manager promised a tree replanting project to alleviate noise pollution and restore tranquility we had prior to the Village allowing the cut down of the original trees. However, this storage placement is unjust and will cause delays once again. I have years of emails and promises.

This is unacceptable! We pay substantial taxes and should not endure neglect. The town's actions and poor choices are degrading our quality of life. It's time for a decisive resolution.

I am adding the tree committee to this email, which can confirm this project and the fight we have had for years. If the storage is not relocated, we cannot have our trees back, and this is absurd.

Please come back to us with a resolution as soon as possible.

Regards,

Natalia

Good morning Jeff,

As you probably know, the Tree Committee has been working with Jerry for several years on a plan to replace the trees removed by MetroNorth along the Bishop Ave. Jerry and the Village Attorney negotiated access to the MetroNorth land so that VOM staff could enter their property while planting the trees in the VOM right of way.

The plan was postponed from last fall to this spring so the Village could park construction equipment there during fall infrastructure work. Jerry promised the Bishop residents and Tree Committee that the trees would be planted this spring.

We need to include arbor vitae for this project with our spring tree order. Do you know how many trees Jerry planned to plant there? Otherwise, I'll measure it and we can make our own estimate.

Thank you.
Beverley

Good morning Natalia,

The tree committee talked about this delayed project at its meeting last night and I have already emailed Jeff Ahne asking how many trees we need to order this spring to fulfill this plan.

I will stay in touch with you as I receive more information.

Beverley Sherrid Chair, VOM Tree Committee

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Dear Beverley,

I express my sincere gratitude to the tree committee for standing witness to our prolonged struggle. Your support is invaluable. After enduring years of frustration, we can no longer tolerate delays. It is imperative that the village find an alternative location for this construction project, allowing us to reclaim our cherished trees.

Thank you very much,

Natalia

.....

Hi Beverly/Jeff,

Thanks for adding me to the e-mail. I am unfamiliar with the plantings/tree replacements Jerry had for Bishop Avenue. Let me know a date/time that you are available when you get back and I can meet with you.

Gino Frabasile, P.E.

.....

Hi Gino,

Apologies for not responding sooner (I was out of town for a while).

While writing the agenda for Wednesday's Tree Committee meeting, I found some emails between you and a Bishop Ave resident explaining that the Village has needed to use the MetroNorth land temporarily for construction equipment.

Jerry explained the same thing to me last fall when he deferred planting new trees until this spring. Your emails suggest that you still need at least part of the land. I see infrastructure work going on all over the Village, so this isn't a complete surprise.

How much of this area do you still need for equipment? Also, when might your space needs be finished?

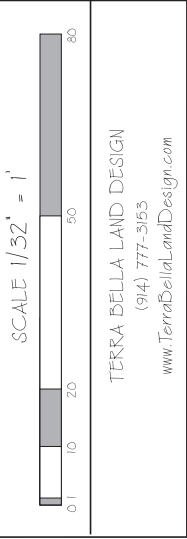
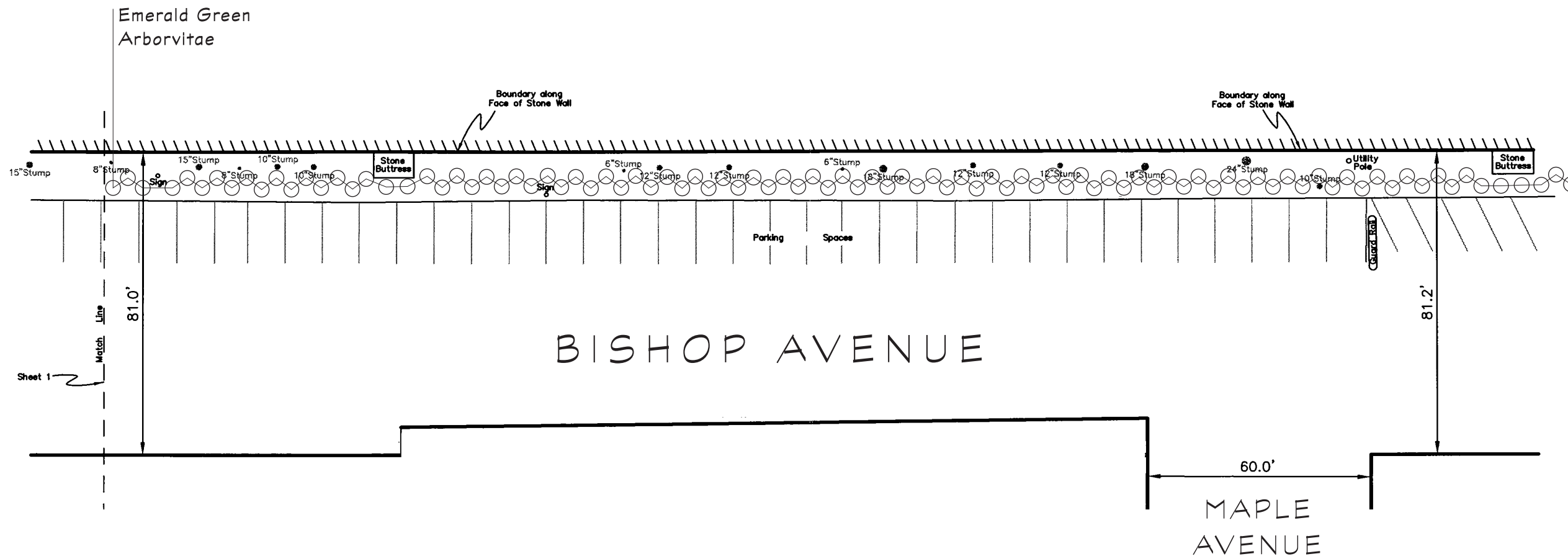
I would like to begin planting here this spring but we only have funds remaining in this budget for about half the trees that are needed. Would it be possible for us to work it out so that trees could be planted at one end and equipment stored at the other?

It might be helpful to meet at Bishop and look at it. I am around next Thursday and Friday, if there's a time that's good for you.

Thanks!

Beverley

T B
L D



SHEET 1 of 1
DECEMBER 2016
REVISION _____
REVISION _____
REVISION _____



Plant Schedule

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	QUANTITY	CONDITION
<i>Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'</i>	Emerald Green Arborvitae	7-8'	96	B&B

BISHOP AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY
LANDSCAPE PLAN - PHASE 2
BISHOP AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

Attachment 9
Question to VOM Engineer Regarding Bishop Ave

Hi Gino,

Apologies for not responding sooner (I was out of town for a while).

While writing the agenda for Wednesday's Tree Committee meeting, I found some emails between you and a Bishop Ave resident explaining that the Village has needed to use the MetroNorth land temporarily for construction equipment.

Jerry explained the same thing to me last fall when he deferred planting new trees until this spring. Your emails suggest that you still need at least part of the land. I see infrastructure work going on all over the Village, so this isn't a complete surprise.

How much of this area do you still need for equipment? Also, when might your space needs be finished?

I would like to begin planting here this spring but we only have funds remaining in this budget for about half the trees that are needed. Would it be possible for us to work it out so that trees could be planted at one end and equipment stored at the other?

It might be helpful to meet at Bishop and look at it. I am around next Thursday and Friday, if there's a time that's good for you.

Thanks!
Beverley

Attachment 10
New Sidewalks in Washingtonville

Hi Gino,

(It's me again.)

I understand that new sidewalks will be laid in Washingtonville after the infrastructure work under the streets.

Although most of the streets are very narrow and there's no space for planting street trees, I'm hoping that if you identify places where trees could be planted, you will add structural soil under the sidewalks. Then please let us know about these locations and the Tree Committee can follow up by planting new trees.

Thank you.
Beverley

The Honorable George Latimer
Westchester County Executive
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

9 February 2024

Dear George,

Thank you for your visit to the Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee meeting on Wednesday evening. It's always a pleasure to see you.

We mentioned our concern about management of the bird sanctuary between Shore Acres Drive and Guion Creek, beginning after 704 Shore Acres Drive and running toward E. Boston Post Road. We would appreciate knowing whether this is Westchester County property.

Thank you for any illumination you can provide about this property.

Sincerely yours,

Beverley Sherrid
Chairman, VOM Tree Committee

Attachment 12
DRAFT Revised Text for Tree Committee Page

The Tree Committee is an advisory committee with a mission to preserve trees and increase the tree canopy of the Village of Mamaroneck.

Not only are trees beautiful. They also absorb huge amounts of water, helping to prevent flooding. They cool our homes and buildings, provide food and shelter for wildlife and freshen our air by converting carbon dioxide to oxygen.

With these vital benefits in mind, the Village introduced a [Tree Law](#) in November 2023 to safeguard both village trees and private trees.

In 2010, the Village began an extensive tree replanting program, and by the Spring of 2017, Mamaroneck had planted 1,000 new trees on Village streets and in public parks. The Village plants 100-120 new trees every year.

The Tree Committee also organizes events and programs—including seasonal tree walks and author talks — to educate residents on the importance of trees.

If you would like to suggest locations for new Village trees, or have any tree related questions/concerns, you can email members of the Tree Committee at treecom@vomny.org. To email individual members, please refer to the roster below.

Attachment 13
Trees Affected by Florence Park Renovations

Hello,

I hear that there was a plan to take down mature trees in Florence Park. Please keep them-- we need the shade and as you know they also sequester carbon and soak up floodwater!

Thank you!

Jean Chung

505 Fifth St

Hello Jean,

Thanks for your email.

You are ahead of me in the news – I first heard the broad concept yesterday and have no details.

I share your dismay and am well aware to the many benefits we will lose if this happens. I understand, however, that the plan is in place because of renovations to the playground and possibly some infrastructure work. They would need room for equipment to access the area and there may be some digging involved (I really have no details). The Village would replant trees, as required by the tree law, at the work's completion although it will take some years for those trees to reach full maturity.

I am planning to meet with the Parks foreman to look at the area sometime after March 21 – I'll be out of town before that – well before any work begins.

Best wishes,
Beverley Sherrid
Chairman, VOM Tree Committee

Attachment 14
Florence Park Renovations

Dear Mayor, Board Members, Dan, Tree Committee, and PRC Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide an update on the progress of the Florence Park redesign project, particularly regarding the playground area and the necessary renovations.

Since last year, we have been diligently working on the design and improvement of Florence Park, with a focus on enhancing the playground area in collaboration with Play Safe. Following the approval of the certified resolution, we have made significant strides, including the ordering of playground equipment and engaging with an approved contractor to commence work on the playground area.

I'm pleased to inform you that the playground equipment is scheduled to arrive on March 18th, 2024, aligning perfectly with our timeline to complete the work before the school's release and the onset of summer. Our target completion date for the entire park renovation is the end of June, strategically minimizing park downtime during peak usage periods.

Regrettably, despite our initial intention to treat this project as one cohesive phase, the unavailability of the finalized site plan necessitates a slight adjustment. Therefore, I propose we approach the project in two phases. We will begin by closing down the playground portion of the park to facilitate the storage of new equipment and prepare for subsequent site work. This phased approach ensures a safe and efficient execution of the project.

One pressing concern in Florence Park is the safety hazard posed by numerous tree roots, which have caused damage to walkways, curbs, and the poured-in rubber surface, resulting in sinkholes. To address this issue, I have been in contact with Beverly from the Tree Committee to identify problematic trees. Currently, there are 17 trees that require removal due to safety concerns. These trees will be replaced with new ones, strategically positioned to mitigate future root-related safety issues.

As part of the playground area renovation, I will oversee the removal of five trees and their stumps to create a safer play environment around the playground equipment. Additionally, I have scheduled a conference call with the playground representative and contractor to finalize details. Once these discussions are concluded, I will determine a closure date for the playground during renovations.

Furthermore, on the day of tree cutting, I plan to temporarily close the Florence Street side of the park to ensure the safety of both residents and working crews utilizing the walking track and school cut-through.

I will promptly share the site plan for the rest of the park with everyone once it is available, enabling us to proceed with the remaining renovations seamlessly.

Please see attached photos of trees that will be removed to start playground renovation

Thank you

If you have any questions please let me know

Jeff Ahne
General Foreman