## Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee 26 January 2021 Agenda

\*Approval of the November Minutes

\*Comments from Residents (*Please limit in-person comments to 3 minutes*) 220 Jenson – phone call with thanks for new trees in Florence Park

#### \*Correspondence

130 Beach – comments on Dec 17 agenda (attach 1) Richbell – thanks for the new trees (attach 2) Guion Drive – objection to new trees on Guion Drive (attach 3) 504 Warren Ave -- regarding replacing trees (attach 4) 130 Beach – comments regarding removal of six trees from Warren Ave Park (attach 5) 130 Beach – comments regarding removal of tree on Claflin at Rushmore (attach 6) Prospect Ave, Con Ed removed another large tree (attach 7) Prospect Ave, further correspondence regarding removal which was by VOM; also Trustee Lucas and Legislator Parker (attach 8) 130 Beach – comments regarding tree removal actual costs and projection by Management Plan (attach 9) 820 Woodbine – correspondence, with replies, about new tree postponed until Spring (attach 10) 423 Hinman – Correspondence about tree request and delayed planting (attach 11) \*Old Business 305 Fourth St – November business, Resident requested removal of large, healthy tree and replacement with small, flowering tree. Did anyone inspect or respond? (attach --) Tree Maintenance -- Please provide street numbers when reporting tree-related issues 850 Palmer – large limb in ROW across the street 404 & 407 Creek – pruning request for broken and poorly pruned limbs

#### Trees for Evaluation and/or Removal

322 South Barry – Resident request removal of dead street tree

#### Violations

717 The Parkway tree topped by residents; violation issued?
540 W. Boston Post Road – trees topped; violation issued?
625 Brook on N. Barry, two trees topped. Violation issued 2019?

#### Fall Planting

66 trees planted by Barbato under supervision of Village Manager 20 small trees from fall list will be purchased and planted in springtime.

Westchester County may plant new trees on County property

Water Treatment Plant, southwest side and driveway – VOM awaiting map of underground architecture; county has not responded because of covid response priorities

<u>MetroNorth Trees Removed along Bishop and Hoyt</u> License agreement needed from MetroNorth -- status?

**Guidelines for Proposing Significant Trees** 

Tree inventory updates

<u>Guided tree walk</u> in Otter Creek January 24, 2021 <u>Other Questions</u>

Pruning of larger elms

#### Planning Board

Draft guidelines to be presented annually Sidewalk repairs using structural soil Tree well planting guidelines Distances from stop signs & corners Ongoing maintenance of trees, particularly street trees Recommend species suited to locations

#### \*New Business

<u>Con Edison – Request to bury power lines</u> Village Manager will discuss burying lines along Guion Drive in conjunction with repaving road surface.

<u>\*Other Business</u> (this time is for committee members to add any items not otherwise included in the agenda)

\*Calendar Notes

Next regular meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

### Attachment 1 Correspondence, 130 Beach Regarding December Agenda

### Agenda

### stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com> Wed, Dec 16, 2020, 3:19 PM

to TreeCom, trees@vomny.org

Dear Chairs and members of the Tree Committee,

I am writing to comment on the agenda for your meeting Thursday night and general tree issues.

Beginning at the top:

Approval of November Minutes -

There are no minutes on the agenda for review and approval as required by Open Meetings Law.

Comments from Residents -

Its my opinion, especially for residents who are concerned about the Village Tree programs, a three minute limitation on comments is counterproductive to the TC work.

Correspondence -

I hope there will be some discussion of the substantive comments made in writing about the Village's tree programs

Tree Maintenance - 404 and 407 Creek

There are a hundred other trees in the Village that need to be pruned more than the trees on Creek, especially considering that the newly planted tree on adjacent to 404 on the Parkway has been recently topped.

Trees for Evaluation and/or Removal - 322 South Barry Avenue

First, why would the Village Manager send this complaint to the TC. Clearly, with the trees on Guion Drive and HIP, when other residents want trees taken down, they just get taken down.

Second, based on GIS maps there are no trees on Village property adjacent to 322 S. Barry and the tree on their neighbor's property is not the Village's problem. The Manager's office should have been able to tell them that.

### Violations

According to GIS mapping there is no 540 W. Post Road. You probably mean 532 W. Post Road, the address about which I sent the TC a complaint about fourteen months ago. Since then I have sent complaints about another half dozen topped trees in the Village. You can keep endlessly keep asking whether violations have been issued or you can start asking "why" there is never any consequence to residents topping, even when they do it year after year, like the trees on Barry Avenue.

### Fall Planting

I wrote the TC about the state of the Fall Planting. It is December, technically the contract expired at the end of November and we are about to have a foot of snow. The Village Manager is free to tell you whatever he wants but I would suggest you ask him for evidence that last year's vendor is going to honor last years contract and when that may happen.

Two trees were planted on Halstead just to the west of Florence. I believe they are the two Redbuds moved from Guion Drive for some unexplained reason. Neither of these locations appear on the Fall 2020 tree planting schedule that I received from the Village.

Both trees are planted in violation of Village tree planting guidelines and Chapter 318 of Village Code. The tree closest to Fourth St. violates the setback distance from street corners, the distance between the two trees violates the separation guidelines approved by the BOT.

Again, it makes no sense to pass laws and guidelines if they are just going to be ignored.

Tree Inventory Updates

Let me guess, there are none.

I believe it is a fantasy to think that anywhere in the foreseeable future that the Village will appropriate funds for a tree inventory. I have sent you information about crowd-sourcing tree inventories. I hope the TC will discuss it at some point.

### Pruning Larger Elms

It is not the half dozen mature elms that need pruning, it is the 100+ newly planted elms that need pruning desperately.

Please stop discussing structural soil for sidewalk repairs, it makes no sense.

The Village already has regulations for the distances from corners and by extension stop signs. Please stop discussing and start following them when tree planting locations are selected, ie Halstead Avenue above.

TC members have no doubt gotten the notice that the Village, after January 1, will not be able to provide staff support for meetings other than land use boards. If you don't know, the BOT had secret discussions at Monday's work session about a hiring freeze and furloughs of existing employees. Extremely challenging economic are hurtling toward every local community. All budgets should be and likely will be cut significantly, including funds for maintaining and planting trees.

According to Village Code, the TC has only one mandated responsibility - "It shall be the responsibility of the Tree Committee to study, investigate, develop and/or update annually and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas, with an estimate of the costs in hours to be worked by village employees and the cost of nursery stock to be used. Such plan shall be presented annually to the Village Board."

As far as I know the TC has never performed this required task. Budget season will begin within a couple of months. I hope the TC will consider presenting your recommendations for a budget to the Board of Trustees early in the process.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

### Attachment 2 Richbell, thanks for the trees

### Tree in Richbell Rd

Thomas A. Murphy Mon, Dec 28, 2020, 6:37 PM

Dear Tree Committee and Jerry, Thank you very much for planting the new trees on Richbell. They are much needed and appreciated. But I can't resist a good story

Gail Koller Mon, Dec 28, 2020, 7:10 PM

Dear Tom, What a beautiful connection and legacy! Maybe you'll get to see the Irish tree one day. Thank you for sharing. Best, Gail

### Beverley Sherrid <mrssherrid@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 28, 2020, 9:00 PM

to Thomas, TreeCom, Jerry, Kelly

What a wonderful story! I don't believe in coincidences, I think it is a significant date. Beverley Attachment 3 New Trees on Guion Drive Circle

### Re: VoM property on S. Barry Ave ...

Jerry Barberio

Wed, Dec 30, 2020, 8:48 AM

Tree locations were chosen by the tree committee volunteers and DPW Department Head... and I supervised the planting. The trees were planted to replace some of

### Peter Ristine <peter.ristine@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 30, 2020, 5:29 PM

to Jerry, Sara, TreeCom, Mayor

Jerry,

My issues are not with adding trees to the property, per se. The problems that I see go back to my original statement that the planning and design of the tree placement was poorly conceived and executed without any consideration to the residents that are directly affected.

- Placement of the trees has destroyed the ability to use the parcel, in direct conflict with your statement below.
- The trees are placed without any regard to power and/or utility lines that directly feed my home and the rest of the homes on the circle. Given the very, very poor track record of the village maintaining this parcel of land properly over the years already, I fail to see how the village can possibly prevent the new trees from becoming a significant threat to these lines going forward. The Village code (section 318-10) clearly allows the tree committee to adjust standards for the distance trees should be planted away from streets, fireplugs, etc and it would appear that no regard was given to the utility lines. While you say that no tree was planted on the yard of a Guion Drive resident, the trees within the circle directly affect all the residents.
- If additional older trees are to be removed, why was that part of the project not completed first? Placing the new trees in an area where previous trees were located (assuming that you properly remove the root system) is a much more viable option than planting new trees in areas that create other issues. The Village has already shown that the tree that was previously removed in the circle has done nothing but destroy the land by not removing the roots properly and an inability to properly even get grass to grow.
- Simply adding a few trees to this parcel of village property is purely cosmetic, does nothing to address the real issues with, and is quite frankly a waste of money

- The improper drainage (well, actually complete lack of drainage) should be addressed before any planting if you want the trees to survive. This is part of the problem of why trees have died their previously
- There is absolutely no curbing around the circle and village trucks are consistently driving on the grass area, tearing up the land.
- The street itself has not been paved in decades and is a complete disaster which is contributing to the improper drainage and creating run-off that directly affects the surrounding properties.

It is pretty clear to me that the tree planting in this area was not very well thought out and, even if a resident asked for trees to be added, there was no regard for the overall effect to the other residents of the circle. I have personally had dealings with the village Planning Board and Harbor & Coastal Zone Management Committee and I am keenly aware of the rules posting signage for projects, collecting feedback, etc all of which seem to not apply in this case for some reason which is just baffling to me. There is a lot more work that needs to be done to this parcel of land, and certainly other projects in the village where money could be better spent, before wasting money simply planting a few trees that are going to die or have to be removed in a couple of years because the village cannot properly maintain.

Peter Ristine Cellular Phone: (917) 941-3368 E-mail: <u>Peter.Ristine@gmail.com</u>

### **Robert Ingenito**

From: Sent: To: Subject: Kelly Taylor <kelsoofbrooklyn@gmail.com> Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:25 AM Beverly Sherrid Warren Ave Park Trees

Hello Beverly.

Not sure if you're the right person to address this with.

I live over by Warren Avenue Park.

Over the last few years, there have been a half dozen trees taken down in the park for one reason or another.

No more have been planted.

I think for every one taken down, the Village should plant at least one if not two.

Any way to request 6 more trees for Warren Ave park to replace those taken down?

We've lost an oak, two ash, a maple, and a couple I don't remember what they were.

Additionally, it looks to me like we're going to lose another couple due to some sort of insect. May want to address that too

Let me know how to address?

Kelly Taylor 504 Warren Ave. Attachment 5 130 Beach regarding trees removed from Warren Ave Park

### The WAP Tree Massacre

stuart tiekert Dec 28, 2020, 3:40 PM

to TreeCom, trees@vomny.org

Dear Chairs and Members of Tree Committee,

I am again writing about the wholesale loss of mature, healthy Village trees without review for reasonableness or control of costs.

Please see attached the latest invoice from Almstead Tree with a line for \$6,252 to remove six trees from Warren Avenue Park and notification that there is no Purchase Order. At least four of four of removed trees appear to have been healthy. Below is an image of the stump of the 48" tree, there is nothing I could see to indicate the tree was unhealthy. Three other stumps I looked at were similarly sound.

Beyond losing four, what about the cost?

Committee members have likely received the Village Manager's email notifying you that he will no longer be using staff to support non land use board meetings because of "careful budget management".

In my opinion, careful budget management would also include knowing how much you are paying to remove trees BEFORE they are removed and consideration of whether there is good reason to spend the money. Both those management practices appear to currently be missing in the Village's process for the removal of trees.

Six thousand dollars would pay to support a lot of TC meetings.

### Attachment 6 130 Beach comments regarding removal at Claflin off Rushmore

### Another victim whacked

### stuart tiekert Sun, Jan 3, 8:24 AM

to TreeCom, trees@vomny.org

All,

East side of Claflin, just off Rushmore.

Stump has no decay or signs of instability.

Who is the judge and jury for trees before they get whacked? Is there anyone advocating for their lives?

The TC's "Purpose" is "The proper.....maintenance of existing trees,". The entire purpose of Chapter 318 is for the "Tree Committee to set proper standards of planting, maintenance and removal and to monitor the observance of these standards."

By my count, the Village has lost over 30 healthy, mature trees in 2020 without any observance of standards for tree removals.

I hope that in 2021 the TC will embrace its purpose and move toward assuming the responsibility for the maintenance Village Code envisions.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

### Attachment 7 Prospect Ave, Con Ed removed another large tree

### **Prospect Ave**

### Dorothee Maver <dorotheemaver@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 10, 6:44 PM (11 days ago)

to treecom@vomny.org

I was extremely saddened to come home last week to find that ConEd had once again removed a centennial tree. This was the last tree of its size and magnitude on this street. There is not one village shade tree in more than a 2 block radius now.

Our entire neighborhood was in tears at this loss. I'm looking forward to hearing about how the tree committee is planning to address this.

Thank you. Dorothee Maver

Dorothée V. Maver

### Gail Koller Sun, Jan 10, 7:34 PM (11 days ago)

to Jerry, TreeCom

Hi Jerry,

I'm afraid to find out which tree this was. There are (were?) some spectacular trees on Prospect. Do you know anything about this?

Best, Gail

### Jerry Barberio Sun, Jan 10, 10:39 PM (11 days ago)

to Tony, Gail, TreeCom

I was not aware nor was I notified by ConEd. I copied Tony.

Thank you,

Jerry Barberio Village Manager Village of Mamaroneck

### Attachment 8 Prospect Ave, further correspondence

FYI

Jerry Barberio Village Manager

From: Tony lacovelli <<u>tiacovelli@vomny.org</u>>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Jerry Barberio <<u>jbarberio@vomny.org</u>>; Vingo, Luigi <<u>VINGOL@coned.com</u>>
Cc: dl - Westchester RCA <<u>dl-WestchesterRCA@coned.com</u>>; Nora Lucas <<u>nlucas@vomny.org</u>>
Subject: RE: <External Sender> Fwd: Thank you for your email - Con Ed has heard quite a lot from me!

#### Jerry,

Out in the field a lot today checking on contractors so I'm just catching up on my e-mails, Con Ed did not remove the tree in question, I had the tree removed by our contractor on December 23. Due to the extensive basal decay at the juncture of the codominant stems there was no remedial action possible to make this tree safe for the general public and residents that live in the area.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at 914-777-7745.

# **Re: Thank you for your email - Con Ed has heard quite a lot from me!**

Mon, Jan 11, 11:31 AM (10 days ago)

### Nora Lucas

to cfp7@westchestergov.com, Dorothee, Mayor, Jerry, Daniel, TreeCom

Dear Catherine and Ms. Mayer,

It is a sad loss. Ms. Mayer, thank you for bringing it to the attention the Tree Committee (also included on this thread) and Catherine, thank you for following up.

I have copied our Village Manager Jerry Barberio and Assistant Village Manager Dan Sarnoff, who, along with the Tree Committee, have all been after Con-Ed to be better Tree stewards.

I have no doubt that Jerry and Dan will follow up on this on behalf of the Village.

Nora Lucas Trustee, Village of Mamaroneck

From: Parker, Catherine <<u>cfp7@westchestergov.com</u>>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Dorothee Maver <<u>dorotheemaver@gmail.com</u>>
Cc: Mayor and Board <<u>MayorandBoard@vomny.org</u>>
Subject: RE: Thank you for your email - Con Ed has heard guite a lot from me!

Hi Dorothee,

Apologies that you were expecting a response back to your email sent in August. I interpreted your question as rhetorical. Indeed, I have been very critical of Con Ed and aging equipment, so you and I are on the same page! Con Ed has a right to trim trees if branches are hanging over the wires, but removal of a tree should only occur if the tree is diseased or dead. I have copied the Mayor and Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck. They may have additional information or can direct staff to reach out to their Con Ed liaison to discuss future action related to tree removal.

Be well, Catherine Catherine Parker

From: Dorothee Maver <<u>dorotheemaver@gmail.com</u>>
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2021 6:58 PM
To: Parker, Catherine <<u>cfp7@westchestergov.com</u>>
Subject: Re: Thank you for your email - Con Ed has heard quite a lot from me!

Legislator Parker,

I never heard back from you regarding the email I sent below.

I would also like to point out that I was extremely saddened to come home last week to find that ConEd had once again removed a centennial tree. This was the last tree of its size and magnitude on this street. There is not one village shade tree in more than a 2 block radius now. Our entire neighborhood was in tears at this loss.

I don't understand how it's feasible that a utility company could be allowed to come in and destroy such beautiful trees. They have to be stopped and if the entire purpose of the tree committee isn't to save trees, then what are you there for?

It's bad enough ConEd is going around destroying all of our streets but now they're impacting our wellbeing and health by attacking our air.

Best regards, Dorothee Maver 618 Prospect Ave Mamaroneck NY 10543 On Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 6:46 PM Dorothee Maver <<u>dorotheemaver@gmail.com</u>> wrote: Legislator Parker,

I thank you deeply for your email back to me.

I agree wholeheartedly that Con Ed needs to step up their game as far as infrastructure is concerned but would like to point out that the majority of the outages that recently happened were due to trees falling down on power lines.

This is 2020, why are we still using technology that was new almost three quarters of a century old?

We shouldn't have to look at these eyesores when there's a much better option. I hope you will be able to help to make our villages and towns safer and more beautiful. Best regards

Dorothee Maver

On Tue, Aug 11, 2020 at 7:11 PM Parker, Catherine <<u>cfp7@westchestergov.com</u>> wrote:

Dorothee,

Thank you for your email. Burying lines does not stop all power outages. Just ask my constituents who are without power, and who have buried lines. That being said, Con Ed has not invested in making upgrades to the power grid. After Sandy

in 2012, and named storms Riley and Quinn in 2018, we held meetings with Con Ed and they told us they had learned a lot and were making changes. Now, I am done with Con Ed and their feeble excuses. The Public Service Commission will be hearing from myself

and my colleagues in government who believe maybe the answer is to take away Con Ed's franchise license.

Be well, Catherine Catherine Parker

### Attachment 9

130 Beach, comments regarding tree removal actual costs and projection by Management Plan

### **Tree Massacres Don't Come Cheap**

stuart tiekert Mon, Jan 11, 7:24 PM (10 days ago)

to TreeCom, trees@vomny.org

Dear Chairs and members of the Tree Committee,

Please note that this evening the BOT is paying a \$39,763, almost half the annual tree maintenance budget of \$85,000, to Almstead Tree for tree maintenance, most likely all removals.

In the first six months of this budget year the Village has spent \$64,833 on tree maintenance.

I believe that the the Tree Management Plan adopted a few years ago (I could not find it on the website) had us spending only \$15,000 per year on removals.

Not quite sure why Jerry is on such tree removal tear but I hope the TC will ask for some explanation of why?

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

Attachment 10

820 Woodbine, Correspondence, with replies, about new tree postponed until Spring

### The tree that will be planted in front of your house

Beverley Sherrid <mrssherrid@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 14, 5:01 PM (8 days ago)

to retorheft, Jerry

Dear Mr. Hull,

I have heard from our Village Manager about the status of the tree we are planning to plant in front of your house. The vendor we used this fall for our tall trees did not have the crabapples or other small, flowering trees we requested in stock. It's now too late to order and plant, but I have been promised that these trees will be ordered from a different nursery in the spring. I am really sorry about the delay, but I want you to know that we haven't forgotten that you are getting a new tree. We want that tree as much as you do.

Stay safe.

Best wishes, Beverley Sherrid Co-Chair, Tree Committee

John Hull Tue, Jan 19, 1:53 PM (3 days ago)

to me, Jerry

Okay, thanks for the update. As previously discussed, I would prefer to have a large shade tree such as oak, linden, sweet gum, maple.

There are no overhead powerlines in the planting area, and several large shade trees have been planted nearby. Looking at the trees on the block they are thriving and in much better shape than the small flowering fruit trees.

The smaller trees also have a much lower, spreading habit and interfere more with street parking.

I look forward to some kind of planting in the Spring.

Thank you!

### Beverley Sherrid <mrssherrid@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 19, 2:39 PM (3 days ago)

to John, Jerry

I think those large trees are going to be in trouble in a few years because of the narrow planting strip. I'll leave this call to Jerry, who is a certified arborist.

On principle, I would rather see a large shade tree there too but I am worried about the space.

John Hull 11:51 AM (2 hours ago)

to me, Jerry

I look forward to the Spring! Thanks!

### Attachment 11 423 Hinman -- Correspondence about tree request and delayed planting

Thank you Beverley. I will also check with the neighbors re trees.

Thank you! Liz Stone

From: Beverley Sherrid [mailto:bsherrid@optonline.net] Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:54 PM To: Liz Stone Subject: Re: Trees please

Hello Liz,

I hope your family is continuing to do well.

I finally heard from our Village Manager about the status of the tree we are planning to plant in front of your house. The vendor we used for our tall trees did not have the crabapples and other small, flowering trees we wanted in stock. It's now too late to order and plant, so I have been promised that these trees will be ordered in the spring. I am really sorry about the delay, but I want you to know that we haven't forgotten that you are getting a new tree. We want trees on your street as much as you do.

I originally designated new trees for both 415 and 419 Hinman, across the street from you. Unfortunately, both residents turned down the trees. One of them has permission to plant a tree of his own, but I see that hasn't happened yet.

Stay safe. Let's hope that 2021 is a better year all around.

Beverley

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On Jul 20, 2020, at 7:59 AM, Liz Stone <<u>castone7@gmail.com</u>> wrote:

Greetings Beverley: Tree requests:

Brook Street. A dead tree was removed. Also the block could use (there is space ) more trees on the non-wire side.

Hinman Place – we had a discussion on this a year or so ago. You were going to look into planting on the non-wire side on people's property. As I understand it, the Village owns 6 (or 8?) ft anyway – so don't know why trees cannot be planted there. I also spoke to our neighbor (possibly 419 Hinman– blue house) who would like a tree, she said.

Would love a shade tree in front of our house: 422 Hinman but perhaps that is not possible. (sidewalk, wires)

Thank you! Liz. Stone 914-698-5982

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PS: How is Eloise doing ? She went to school with Jake (Jacob) Stone – now an engineer with his own business advising property managers/contractors re HVAC! (literally left his salaried job the DAY of the shutdown – but is amazingly very busy in his new venture. We don't actually want him living in our basement  $\mathfrak{B}$ )





VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK TREE COMMITTEE AND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# WINTER NATURE WALK AT OTTER CREEK

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 1 PM - 2 PM

RAIN/SNOW DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1 PM - 2 PM

The Otter Creek Preserve, which was acquired by the Westchester Land Trust in April 2015, is a gem close by with a mix of habitats including salt marsh and wooded wetlands. Join us for a walk on the trails with Jocelyn Kleinman, Education Director of the Sheldrake Environmental Center, as we see what is happening here in the winter. Along the way we'll learn a bit about what makes this area so ecologically valuable. Because of the tidal nature of the preserve, trails tend to be muddy and boots are recommended!

#### Register online at: vomrec.recdesk.com

Participants MUST be available for the rain/snow date if the program is cancelled due to inclement weather. Program is FREE and open to the public but registration is required. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

**Directions:** The Otter Creek Preserve is located on Taylors Lane in Mamaroneck. Turn on to Taylors Lane from Boston Post Road and go 0.5 miles, past the 'Private Road' sign. Near the end of Taylors Lane, the preserve is visible on the right side of the road. Parking is on the right along the split rail fence.









