

3/7/2022

## Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee 10 March 2022 Agenda

\*Welcome to new committee member Sara Mignano

\*Approval of the February 17, 2022 Minutes (*Attachment 1, circulated separately*)

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

### \*Correspondence

205 Melbourne log-in-the-wire (*Attachment 2*)

130 Beach regarding 205 Melbourne removal (*Attachment 3*)

### \*Old Business

Trees For Maintenance, Removal, or Evaluation – Updates from Village Manager

*Please provide street numbers when reporting tree-related issues*

749 Bleecker regarding possible pruning on tree marked for removal update

1505 Harrison Ave – application to remove two protected trees, one for location near house, one for decay (ash)

### Tree Law

Planning Board revisions sent to BOT

1037 Orienta – tree removal application denied March 8, would have removed 8 protected trees also possibly more than 25% of vegetation

### Hotline for reporting tree law violations

Dennis Drogan attendance & comments

### Rye Neck Action Research Students' survey

Survey draft in process, will receive VOM review before final

VOM will circulate to its mailing list of residents following review

### Enforcement Action:

990 The Parkway tree topped, tree not yet inspected (*Attachment 4 & 4a*)

### New Trees

Order placed March 7 for 36 trees from Fall list

Draft letter for planting BROW

BOT “Tree Scholarships” plan has been referred to NYS Attorney General for opinion

Tree Damage Caused by ConEd Pruning update

- Who is building file of images?
- Research on effects of bad pruning

Tree Tags for New Trees

\*New Business

“TreeDiaper” watering system test planned (Attachment 5)

- Makes use of rain water when available
- Reduces labor, fuel costs
- Protects young trees from trimmer damage

314 Carroll, Relocation of WJWW equipment (Attachment 6)

Financial effects of planting trees around private residences (Matt)

Possible Joint book discussion on Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures

Possible committee field trips

- Sheldrake Nature Center, guided by Gail Koller
- Small park by I-95

\*Other Business *(committee members please add any items not otherwise included in the agenda)*

\*Calendar Notes

Next meeting April -- 2022, 7:30 pm (in person?)

Tree Walk in Florence Park – May 1, rain date May 22

Clean & Green Day – May 7

## FEBRUARY 17, 2022 MINUTES

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON FEBRUARY 17 AT 7:30PM

#### PRESENT:

Nora Lucas, trustee  
Gail Koller, co-chair  
Beverley Sherrid, co-chair  
Marlene Star  
Ellen Axelrod

1. Call to Order: 7:37PM
2. Approval of January Minutes – Approved
3. Tree committee expects to have a new member - Sara Mignano. She was welcomed although she was not able to attend the meeting.

#### 4. **Correspondence:**

130 Beach Street – ANSII standards cannot be posted on-line since they are copyrighted and we do not have permission to post them. The Village Hall has a printed copy. The new Tree Law is on the VOM website under “New Laws.”

1010 Orienta – Applicant submitted proposed new tree plantings.

#### 5. **Old Business:**

- a. 1523 Henry – There is no enforcement issue since the trees are not in a protected class. They were all under 8” in diameter.

- b. Across the street from 749 Bleeker ROW – Gail to follow-up with Jerry Barberio on assessment of tree marked for removal. Trying to save tree for the benefit of the ospreys.
- c. Rye Neck Social Action Research – Students doing research on how to raise community awareness on the value of trees. The survey draft is in process. After the VOM and Jerry review it, the eblast will go out to the residents.
- d. New Tree Law Enforcement – The tree law is working – 3 properties were mentioned. 990 The Parkway to be reviewed by Jerry. 234 Stanley Ave, where a tree was removed and reported by a resident and a violation will be issued. 510 Courtlandt where a code enforcement ticket was issued for two trees that were cut down.
- e. Tree Inventory – Ideas were shared on how to help with this project. It was suggested that residents may want to help and Jerry Barberio can train people on how to identify tree. Apps to identify trees can help as well. Communications for this effort may be mentioned at the next tree walk or with flyers. This can possibly be a summer family activity. Communication will mention that village trees belong to everyone in the community.
- f. New Trees –The Tree Committee has a reduced list of 36 locations for new trees this spring. A site review is planned with Jeff Ahne on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- g. Tree Law – Awaiting approval of requested revisions by Board of Trustees.
- h. Tree Removal due to Con Ed Pruning –Marlene provided picture of a damaged tree. Nora suggested pictures be taken of all damaged trees and present them to the Board of Trustees. Matt is collecting data on this subject.
- i. Spring Tree Walk – A walk is planned to return to Florence Park on May 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gail will check with Jocelyn to see if we can have two naturalists, if needed, depending on foreseeable demand.
- j. Tree Hotline – Marlene spoke to Dennis Drogan, the deputy building inspector, regarding the hotline and he is in favor of it. Further discussions will be had regarding implementation.

## **6. New Business:**

- a. Budget request of \$60K per annum for pruning mature trees was submitted to the Board of Trustees. This proposal would cover 67-100 trees a year which is a good start to the program. Beverley drafted a proposal for the Board of Trustees.
- b. Financial effects of planting trees. Matt is preparing this in order to inform VOM residents. Benefits include energy costs savings as well as other advantages.
- c. The Committee for The Environment is currently working on a grant application to create pollinator gardens throughout the Village along the river banks and other Village owned open space areas. The application requires planting along the bank of a river, creek or stream so this would fit nicely with what is needed for VOM. The VOM planting of trees will require volunteer assistance. Jerry Barberio is aware of this grant and he felt it was simpatico with the Army Corp of Engineers project.
- d. Tree Tags Project was approved and will be headed by Gail. Sample tags will identify tree and its care. The tags will be reusable, display VOM logo and will hang loosely from the trees.
- e. Trees For America Brochure, Arbor Day Foundation request. Marlene shared information and requested we plan an Arbor Day event which will be on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Arbor day is the day before VOM Clean and Green, Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. TC is considering having a presence at the Saturday event similar to last year and will acknowledge Arbor Day.
- f. Importance of Trees online information was shared by Marlene.
- g. A book discussion was suggested for "Entangled Life" - How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures" by Merlin Sheldrake. Author visit and talk at Mamaroneck Library was suggested.

7. Next meeting Thursday, March 10th, 2022 at 7:30PM

8. ADJOURNED 9:13 PM

Attachment 2  
205 Melbourne – Tree Section Left in Wires

Courtney Wong  
Sat 3/5/2022 10:57 PM  
To:

- Koller, Gail;
- Jerry Barberio;
- Beverley Sherrid;
- Jeff Ahne

Hi Gail,

We sent this over to Altice and they confirmed it was there wires the tree was stuck in. They are going to take care of it.

Thanks,  
Courtney

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**From:** Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:09 PM  
**To:** Beverley Sherrid <BSherrid@vomny.net>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>  
**Cc:** Koller, Gail <GKoller@vomny.net>; Courtney Wong <cwong@vomny.org>  
**Subject:** Re: 205 Melbourne floating tree section

That is a Verizon line or Altice I believe. That is more common than you would think.

We will email them both with your picture.

Thanks JB  
**Jerry Barberio**

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**From:** Beverley Sherrid <BSherrid@vomny.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>  
**Cc:** Koller, Gail <GKoller@vomny.net>; Dana Green <drg2129@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** 205 Melbourne floating tree section

Hello Jerry & Jeff,

I finally remembered to look up when I passed the location where a tree was removed at 205 Melbourne. There really is a section of the tree stuck in the lower wires. It seems that a branch grew around the wire, so it's secure right now but it's not a stable or safe situation.

I don't know whose responsibility removal would be. It's not a Con Ed wire, and it's certainly not something VOM staff should be doing. Can you figure out whose wire it is and have it removed, please?

Thank you.  
Beverley



Dana Green <drg2129@gmail.com>  
Wed 2/23/2022 6:42 PM  
To:

- Beverley Sherrid

Cc:

- Jerry Barberio;
- TreeCom

Thanks Beverley; sorry, I didn't see this email until after I had sent my follow up.

I do understand sometimes these decisions have to be made. In addition to replacement, are you able to raise the issue of removing the log that is hanging in the wires?

Thank you so much,

Dana

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On Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 6:34 PM Beverley Sherrid <[BSherrid@vomny.net](mailto:BSherrid@vomny.net)> wrote:

Dana,

Our Village Manager has reminded me that the Tree Committee received the following notice about the removal at 205 Melbourne:

*a tree at 205 Melbourne leaning towards the house was compromised further by the high winds we had this weekend. It's in poor shape but still hanging on. The real concern is the school across the street. With so many parents picking kids up (walking them to their cars) and walkers, the target (walkers/waiters) is the greatest factor.*

*We recommend removal, it's in primary and secondary wires to exasperated the issue, and replacing it in the future with a structurally better tree.*

It was an appropriate safety decision but I do understand all the reasons you regret the removal. We will replace it.

Beverley

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**From:** Beverley Sherrid <[BSherrid@vomny.net](mailto:BSherrid@vomny.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 6:06 PM

**To:** Dana Green <[drg2129@gmail.com](mailto:drg2129@gmail.com)>; TreeCom <[TreeCom@vomny.org](mailto:TreeCom@vomny.org)>; Jerry Barberio <[jbarberio@vomny.org](mailto:jbarberio@vomny.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Removal of Mature Trees Along Melbourne Ave

Thank you Dana.

I had no idea about the loss of these trees. Normally the Village lets us know when trees are removed, as well as the reason. By any chance, are 205 and 249 Melbourne on the side of the street with overhead power lines? If they are, it's possible that ConEd did the removal.

We will add Melbourne to our fall list of planting sites. This spring we are planting only a small number of locations, all of them carried over from last fall. I wish the new trees could immediately recreate the benefits of the old ones, but they will be a start.

I know how dramatically the light and character of a street change with the loss of a mature tree (much less three trees), and I'm really sorry it's happened on Melbourne.

Best wishes,

Beverley Sherrid

Co-Chair, VOM Tree Committee

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**From:** Dana Green <[drg2129@gmail.com](mailto:drg2129@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 5:19 PM  
**To:** TreeCom <[TreeCom@vomny.org](mailto:TreeCom@vomny.org)>  
**Subject:** Removal of Mature Trees Along Melbourne Ave

Dear Members of the Tree Committee,  
I write to express my dismay about the recent removal of beautiful old trees on our street, in the hopes that you may be able to remedy the situation in some way.

We moved to Melbourne Avenue two years ago after falling in love with the charm of this neighborhood. The unique Victorian houses and graceful old shade trees are something really special. And we soon learned that this area has an equally special community of people who care for each other and the neighborhood.

Six months after we arrived, a hurricane blew down the 100+ year old maple tree in front of 239 Melbourne Ave. That couldn't be helped, but the town's response surprised us. It took a big effort to get the town and ConEd to come remove the fallen tree. When they did, they left behind a big bare stump, torn up soil, and a broken sidewalk. After more effort on our part, eventually the town removed the unsightly stump, patched the turf, and repaired the sidewalk. The tree was never replaced.

Then, this fall city workers showed up and abruptly cut down the beautiful 100+ year old maple tree on the other side of the street, in front of 249 Melbourne Avenue. The tree needed a branch to be pruned but otherwise appeared in fine health. Even the tree surgeons who came to cut it down said there was nothing wrong with it. But it was out of their hands. They left behind nothing but a big bare stump and a homeowner in tears. It has been months and that stump is still sitting there, an eyesore and a constant reminder of the loss. No effort has been made to replace the tree.

This month, workers showed up and abruptly cut down the beautiful 80 year old locust tree in front of 205 Melbourne Avenue. Again, they left behind an unsightly big bare stump, broken sidewalk slates, and—perhaps most appallingly—a large log of wood caught in the power lines that hangs overhead and threatens to fall and seriously injure or kill someone. No effort has been made to replace the tree.

I know the members of this committee understand what a huge loss it is when a mature tree is cut down. These trees were an important part of our neighborhood, offering tremendous environmental value and shade that an immature tree can't. They were enjoyed not only by the people who live here but by the many people who come to our neighborhood to walk their dogs and enjoy this walkable residential area. It will take a lifetime to regrow them.

I am not sure who is responsible for these removals or even who to express our concerns to. I don't know if the removals were justified or not. I have looked at your recent minutes and don't see any reference to these trees. So I would ask, please, that you look into this situation.

I would also ask that as part of your planning for the Spring, please consider replacing these trees, preferably with long-lived shade trees. If a shade tree replacement in the same location is not possible due to power lines or other factors, please consider planting on the opposite side of the street to ultimately achieve a similar environmental impact. I don't think we as a community should rely just on a homeowner to do this. I can only assume they were removed for the benefit of the town; surely they also should be replaced for the benefit of the town?

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for the work that you do. I read the 2013 street tree inventory and really appreciate the thought that has gone into the tree law, the list of recommended species, and other efforts.

Sincerely,

Dana Green

Attachment 3 – 130 Beach regarding 205 Melbourne removal

Dear Chairs and Members of the Tree Committee,

I am writing because another significant native tree (Locust) has been removed. Judging from its remains and my observations (it was around the corner from my house, at the corner of Melbourne and Tompkins) it was in fine health.

Please note that the new tree law make it a duty and responsibility of the TC to "Review any proposal by the Village Manager or the Village Manager's designee to remove a tree on public property."

As has been previously reported to the TC, innumerable mature, healthy, native Village trees have been removed over the past few years.

In keeping with the requirements of the new tree law I urge the TC to require, except in the case of documented emergencies, prior to each month's meeting that you are provided with a list of proposed removals and it be made available in a timely manner on the Village website.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert





Attachment 4 – 990 The Parkway

To: Frank Tivolacci  
Cc: Beverley Sherrid

Frank Please send someone from the BD to investigate and issue a citation if deemed necessary for this Village tree.

Thank you,

Jerry Barberio  
Village Manager  
Village of Mamaroneck

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Beverley Sherrid <BSherrid@vomny.net>  
**Date:** February 18, 2022 at 11:51:27 AM EST  
**To:** Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>  
**Cc:** "Koller, Gail" <GKoller@vomny.net>, Marlene Star <marlenedstar@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Tree topped at 990 The Parkway

Good morning Jerry.

At last night's Tree Committee meeting, Marlene presented the above photograph of a street tree at 990 The Parkway that has been topped. The tree is not under a power line so we can't blame Con ED.

I looked at the tree this morning and the pruning cuts are very new. Would the Village issue a violation, please?

Thank you.  
Beverley



The Ultimate Soil  
Moisture Stabilizer

Patented  
Made in the USA



# TreeDiaper<sup>®</sup>

Advanced Plant Hydration System

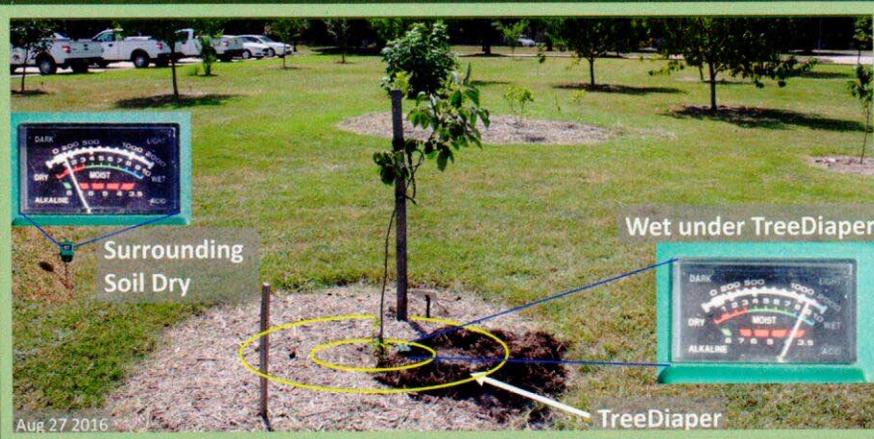
Research and Development Supported by National Science Foundation  
Save plants, save water, save labor, save the planet!





# Urban Orchard

(Start 2013)



We partnered with Chesterfield County of Virginia in June 2013 for an Urban Orchard Project. Two groups of ten fruit trees were planted on a field without irrigation. One group of trees was installed with TreeDiaper® mats and the other group trees was given watering bags. Watering schedules (with watering trucks) and natural rainfall were recorded during the testing

period. In May 14, 2016, Plants Map published a featured article "Virginia's Chesterfield County Transforms Turf into an Urban Orchard", in which it stated:

**"TreeDiapers — which have proven effective at keeping young trees adequately watered without as much maintenance and added water as typical tree bags — are still used in the orchard. The landscape has since been expanded."**

We calculated the cost of TreeDiaper® versus watering bags for a project like this. In the chart below, our cost estimates are displayed. **Our estimates are based on one year of tree care.** Some costs are estimated based on available information, standard practices, and weather for Richmond, VA. In the long term, TreeDiaper® is obviously the most economical choice, as it cuts back on water and labor expenses significantly. This does not include labor costs of installation/removal. TreeDiaper® is installed once during tree planting and does not require maintenance. Watering bags are installed/removed twice per year.

Cost Item for 10 Trees	TreeDiaper®	Watering Bags
Irrigation Water (Gallons)	0	1200
Cost of Watering Devices	\$250	\$220
Water Cost	\$0	\$20
Water Delivery Price	\$0	\$300
Labor Cost of Watering	\$0	\$600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$1140</b>



# Summer Planting

(Start 2014)



## Plant Any Time: A Summer Planting Success Story

Trees planted in the summer often struggle to become established due to seasonal droughts. Landscapers and gardeners avoid summer planting; even without drought, keeping young plants adequately watered in intense heat is a challenge. In 2014, we saw this common problem as an opportunity to put TreeDiaper® to the test.

We donated ten maple trees and seven TreeDiaper® mats to Taylor Park in Hanover County, Virginia. They were planted in July of 2014: seven with pre-soaked TreeDiaper® mats, three without. When we came back to visit a few weeks later, we found that TreeDiaper® mats had been transferred to the control group without our knowledge. We did not share the details of our experiment, so when a park employee noticed that the trees without TreeDiaper® were struggling, necessary action was taken to keep them all alive. While this dismantled our initial experiment, it proved TreeDiaper®'s effectiveness nonetheless!

**2014**

**2017**

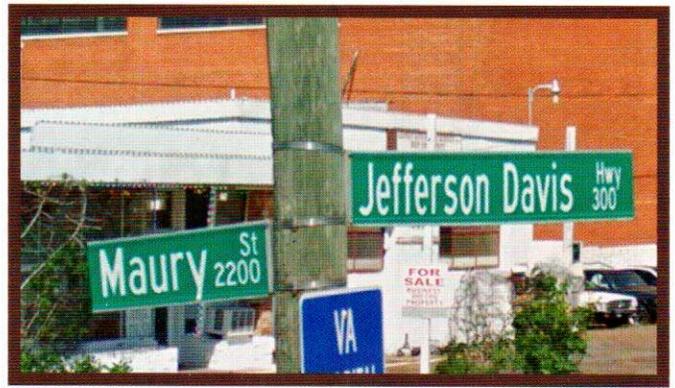


**2019**

With TreeDiaper®, planting a tree in the summertime doesn't have to be a risky purchase. Presoak and install TreeDiaper®, then water only when needed. Not only does TreeDiaper® create a steady, moist growing environment, but also encourage root growth outwards, which is vital for establishment. Protect your investment in trees.

**Save plants, save water, save labor,  
and save the planet!**

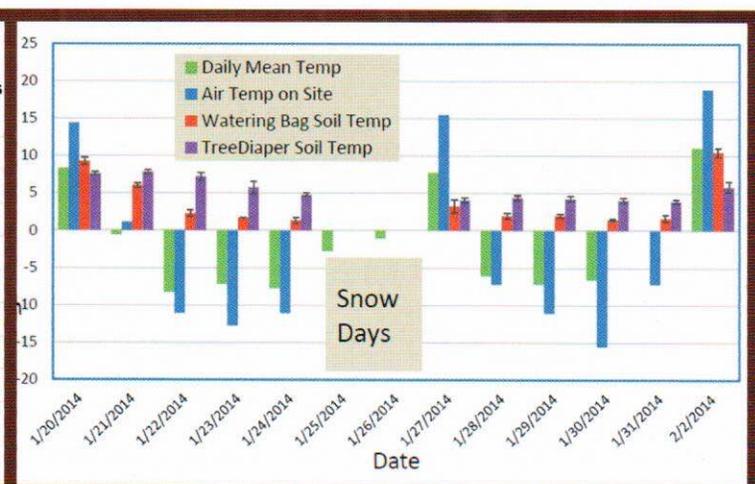
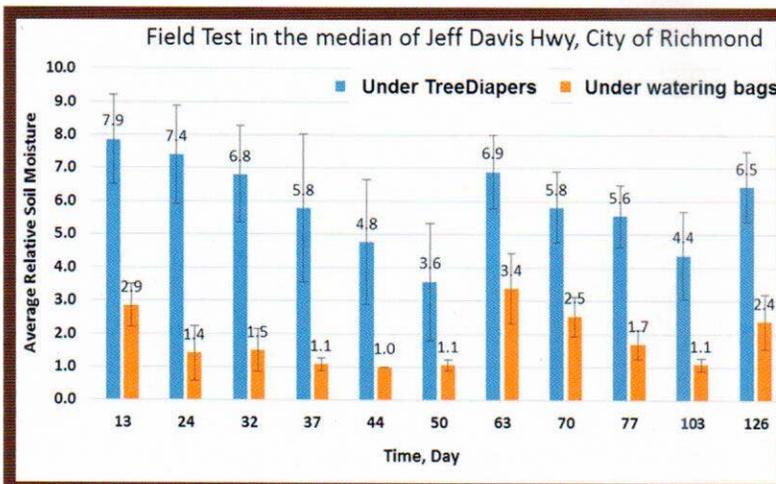
# Live vs Dead Difference for Road Median Trees in Richmond, Virginia (Start 2013)



The Urban Forestry Department of the City of Richmond, Virginia performed a street tree planting project on Jefferson Davis Highway in 2012 and 2013. In August 2013, 36-inch TreeDiaper® mats were installed on five trees south of Maury Street. On the north side of Maury Street, six trees were left with watering bags. TreeDiaper® mats were covered with mulch to discourage vandalism.

In June 2014, a seasonal drought hit central Virginia. Weather Underground recorded 0.9" of rain from June 13 to July 24. All the trees with watering bags died even though 6 watering trucks were operating full time to refill the watering bags around the city. Later in 2015, the dead trees were removed and not replanted. In comparison, all trees installed with TreeDiaper® survived. This was achieved without any manual watering. We checked the soil moisture at 3" depth for the first 4 months after TreeDiaper was installed. Trees with watering bags are dry for the majority of the time and water from the watering bags does not last long enough between refills.

Not only did the city lose their investment, but will also have to spend extra money to replace these trees and maintain them in order for them to have a chance at survival. Richmond, Virginia, a new roadside tree can be planted for \$340 according to the City's Adopt-A-Tree program as of 2018. Visit this site on Google Maps to see these trees yourself.



Attachment 6 – 314 Carroll, Relocation of WJWW equipment

**From:** Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:00 AM

**To:** TreeCom <TreeCom@vomny.org>

**Cc:** Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Marco A. Ferraro <maferraro@vompd.com>

**Subject:** Fw: 314 Carroll

Dear TC,

Acting DPW General Foreman Mark Ferraro and I just met in my office at the building department. Below is a picture of a tree at 314 Carroll. He met with WJWW regarding the installation of a new valve and box at the base of that tree. To Mark's credit, he was able to convince them to move over into the concrete slab to preserve the tree roots to the maximum extent possible. Lets see how it goes when they dig, but that is the plan. In the event our plan will not work, we may need to remove the tree for safety reasons (extensive root removal). He and I hope not.

I'll update is needed. Thx

**Jerry Barberio**

Re: 314 Carroll



Addition 1-A Application to remove 12 trees

To:

- Jerry Barberio;
- Karen Johnson

Cc:

- Courtney Wong;
- Matthew Gansert;
- TreeCom;
- Mayor and Board;
- Building Department

Previous Correspondence from Mr. Miller, I cannot find the February 3, 2020 letter that he referenced.

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**From:** Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** Karen Johnson <kjohnson@vomny.org>  
**Cc:** hcmill29or@aol.com <hcmill29or@aol.com>; Courtney Wong <cwong@vomny.org>; Matthew Gansert <mgansert@vomny.org>; TreeCom <TreeCom@vomny.org>; Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Building Department <BuildingDepartment@vomny.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Tree Permit Application

Absolutely Denied!!

Please fill out the application and I will review the application.

One tree may be an emergency in imminent danger of harming a target not 12 trees. Good try!!

Karen, please send them the tree law and highlights the fines section.

Thank you,

Jerry Barberio  
Village Manager  
Village of Mamaroneck

On Mar 9, 2022, at 2:19 PM, Karen Johnson <kjohnson@vomny.org> wrote:

Emergency tree removal request from Henry Miller at 1505 Stonybrook Ave.

12 trees in proximity of utility lines were advised to be taken down by Chris Neal and Robert Tipping.

Henry will be submitting the application, but is asking for emergency removal before the application process.

Please call 352-342-3721

***Karen Johnson***

Building Department

September 21, 2020

Dear Mayor and Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck

RE Tree Law

We are adding comments to our original letter addressed to the Mayor and Trustees on Feb 3 concerning the new proposed tree law.

Five generations of our family have owned and occupied the property at 1505 Stoneybrook Ave which would be adversely affected by the proposed tree law. The property includes a house on one parcel and an adjoining partially wooded lot. As was stated before, we have spent thousands of dollars managing our property dealing with problematic trees etc., including diseased, stressed, fallen trees, trees leaning on wires, trees taking down utility wires, etc. Trees are very expensive!

The authors of the proposed tree law suggest that trees especially mature ones and their canopies offer nothing but benefits. On the contrary... as witnessed during recent storm "Isaias" and other storms trees can cause havoc especially around utility wires and poles both publicly and privately. Trees grow healthy and unhealthy because of insects, animals, disease, unsuitable growing conditions , etc. They can fall when their root systems fail and they can blow down. Trees rot, produce pollen, leaves, dead branches, etc. When trees reach maturity they can be much more prone to having problems and causing problems which even without this proposed law are very expensive to correct.

A Village tree fell from Beaver Swamp Brook during the storm "Isaias" striking our daughter's home at 1505 Stoneybrook Ave luckily

causing only minor damage and no injuries. The cleanup cost of the tree was considerable.

We think the Village would be better off using the proposed tree law for Village trees. Perhaps you might consider to inventory all Village trees and have an arborist periodically check on all of those trees. Maybe if that were done the Village tree would not have fallen on our property. It would be interesting to know the number of trees the Village owns, mature trees, their locations etc.

The total portion of the tree law as it pertains to private property needs to be rescinded. The portions dealing with tree removal and protected trees is particularly "extremely troubling."

If the proposed local law becomes implemented it will disproportionately affect our property negatively since we have an unusually large number of trees - especially mature ones.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Carol & Henry Miller