Williamsburg Planning Board

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Minutes
Public Hearing on
Shade Trees
Nov 20, 2018
Approved

Members:	present	not present		present	not present
Robert Barker	×		Jean O'Neil	×	
Steve Snow	x		Amy Bisbee	x	
Steve Smith	x		Eric Schmitt	×	
Chris Flory	x				
Others present: Bill Turner, Charlene Nardi, Carol Duke					

Chairman Robert Barker called the hearing to order at 7:02 PM.

1. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss two town trees adjacent to property of Carol Duke, 36 Hemenway Rd. Members of the Planning Board had viewed the trees which were marked by Tree Warden Turner.

Tree 1 is a large perhaps 200-year-old sugar maple very close to the road and is dropping limbs. Duke feels it is a historic tree and would like it trimmed but not removed. Turner recommends it be removed in its entirety as it is dying and will continue to decline, and it will be more costly to attend to it now and again in the future. His recommendation was supported by the Board on a 6-1 vote; the tree will be removed.

Tree 2 is a healthy butternut or black walnut with the landowner complaint of large nuts dropping and damaging at least one vehicle. She has concerns for visitor safety and property damage, and believes this tree will overshadow others. Turner's recommendation is that the tree is live and there is no need to cut it. His recommendation was supported by the Board on a unanimous vote; the town will not remove the tree.

Whether the tree can be removed by the landowner at her expense is another matter. Turner recommended she be allowed to cut the tree. The Board voted 5 in favor, 1 abstained, and 1 opposed. Duke may cut the tree if she wants.

2. Comment. In the future, it will be helpful if the species of tree is clear and if photos or viewing opportunities from a growing season as well as after leaf-fall are available.

3. The hearing was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean O'Neil