

Annual Report of the Shade Tree Committee

During the last year, the Tree Committee has worked hard to protect our valuable community trees, while insuring safety along our roadways. The Tree Committee completed three tree surveys a year. We visually survey the town and evaluate trees that have been brought to our attention as possibly being hazardous. Through a point system, we determine the potential risk that the tree poses. We use this information to prioritize tree removal. A town tree is defined as any tree within the town right-of-way. Often that is within 25 feet of the center of the road. A stonewall or property pin can take precedence for determining a town tree. This year, working with partners, we removed over 30 potentially hazardous trees in town.

Another important part of our work is tree replacement. The committee feels that it is just as necessary to replace trees that have to be removed. We will be looking for places to replant trees this spring. Contact a tree committee member if you have a good idea for location.

The committee is also concerned about actions by well meaning citizens that may endanger town trees. These include piling mulch around the base of a tree, called mulch volcanoes, cutting down town trees to install a driveway or enlarging a yard, or pruning town trees. By state law, cutting and pruning public trees requires prior approval of the Tree Committee/Tree Warden. Please contact the Tree Committee if you have any questions.

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