

CITY OF NORWALK

PUBLIC HEARING

August 1, 2016

6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Chris Torre, Tree Warden
Attorney Schenael
Greg Parker, 81 William Street
Stephanie Thomas, 81 William Street
Michael Caputo, 79 William Street
Jaimie Silverman , 25 Oriole Drive

Mr. Torre opened the public hearing at 6:00PM and read the legal memo into the record. He stated that the tree was posted on May 10, 2016, and a letter was received by Greg Parker on May 19, 2016, opposing the removal of the tree. He said that within three days of the meeting he will render his decision which will be posted on the tree and filed with the Town Clerk per the Connecticut General Status. He said anyone opposing that decision will have ten days to file an appeal with the Connecticut Superior Court.

Mr. Caputo, resident of 79 William Street, began by asking why the trees are being removed. Mr. Torre said that two of the trees are hazardous trees and do not need to be posted, and that the third tree was proposed to be removed by the DPW Engineering Department to make a three way stop at the intersection of King and William Street, and has been approved by the Traffic Authority.

Ms. Thomas, of 81 William Street showed photos of the trees and stated that there are 16 locations on William Street that are not ADA compliant, and stated that the only tree that is ADA compliant is a healthy tree, and is being removed due to the installation of a stop sign and she finds it difficult to accept. Mr. Torre said that he cannot confirm or deny that it a healthy tree, but that it would appear to be healthy with no visible defects that he would normally not deem it a hazard. He also stated that it is not uncommon for a request to be made to remove a tree that is in the public right of way. Ms. Thomas stated that she had spoken to Mr. Yeosock last week and he stated that he may have other remedies that would warrant the tree not to be removed. She stated for the record that she is in favor of removing the one tree that is diseased but is very much against the other two being removed.

Mr. Torre asked if anyone is in favor of removing the trees. Ms. Silverman said that she is in favor of the trees being removed if that is what is needed to be done to install the stop sign. She said that she is an activist of trees but that this is a safety issue.

Attorney Schenael said that the third tree in question is being removed to accommodate a stop sign and asked what that meant. Mr. Torre said that it is his understanding that where the stop sign will be located that the tree will obstruct visibility to the stop sign. Attorney Schenael asked if it would be possible to consider other options, and stated that they have consulted with an engineer and he had suggested that if visibility is the issue, to install a stop ahead sign near the tree which would mitigate the visibility issue and preserve the tree.

Mr. Torre said that before he renders his decision that he will contact Mike Yeosock to see if it is possible to install a stop a head sign and still give people enough time to stop at the stop sign.

Mr. Torre closed the public hearing at 6:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd