

#30. TOWN OF LUNENBURG PROCEDURAL POLICY -

TREE REMOVAL AND TRIMMING PROCEDURE

I. Purpose:

1. It is the intention of the Town of Lunenburg to preserve all mature trees on Town of Lunenburg property consistent with safety and reasonable cost. If the removal of a tree is unavoidable due to accident or disease that tree will be replaced with one of the appropriate size and species in the immediate vicinity. (Added April 28, 2005 by Council.)
2. The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedure to be followed when deciding whether Town of Lunenburg trees are to be removed or trimmed.

II. Procedure

1. The Town Engineer and Electric Utility Superintendent ("staff") shall determine in consultation with Department of Natural Resources or private arborist whether a tree located on Town of Lunenburg property should be removed. There must be adequate reason(s) for removing the tree e.g., disease, safety, etc. and sufficient evidence it is on Town of Lunenburg property.
2. (a) If it is determined by staff that a Town tree should be removed they shall place an identifiable mark on the tree prior to its removal. Immediately adjacent private property owners will be notified by them of the proposed removal and given fifteen (15) days to object to Town Council. Council will consider any such objections at their next regular meeting. Notwithstanding any objections, if in the opinion of Council, removal of the tree is required to prevent hazardous conditions to persons or property, or the tree is so affected by disease or insect infestation endangering trees in the vicinity or any other valid reason, the tree will be removed.

(b) If no objections are filed within fifteen (15) days, the tree shall be removed by staff without referral to Council.

3. If a tree slated for removal is located on both private and Town property, the assessed private property owner(s) will be notified of staff's intentions and will be given fifteen (15) days to object. Council will consider any such objections at their next regular meeting. Notwithstanding any objections, if in the opinion of Council, removal of the tree is required to prevent hazardous conditions to persons or property, or the tree is so affected by disease or insect infestation as to endanger trees in the vicinity or any other valid reason, the tree will be removed. If there are no objections, the tree shall be removed.

4. Town tree trimming required due to interference with Electric Utility lines and services will be done under the sole direction and control of the Electric Utility Superintendent.

5. Private property owners will not be billed for the removal or trimming of trees located on their property pursuant to this policy, if, this work is necessitated due to interference with Electric Utility lines. In all other instances, the respective share of Town charge out rates will be billed to the private property owners.

6. When feasible, the Public Works Department will plant new trees on Town property where Town trees were removed.

7. Town trees once removed (or portions thereof trimmed) shall be cut in manageable sections and delivered to the Town's compost site where any resident or Town employee (after work) may take this wood free of charge. Notwithstanding, portions of trees removed or trimmed may be chipped by Town staff when more expedient. These wood chips shall be deposited at the Town's compost site for use in Town gardens, parks, etc. or made available to residents or Town employee (after work) free of charge. And further, the Town reserves the right to sell any Town tree removed or portion thereof if determined to be in the best interests of the Town.