

Advisory Board of Public Works, November 14, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Item 1 | Call to Order: Chair Chris Tarr called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Present: Chair Chris Tarr, Vice Chair Maria Palomino, Board Member Elena Proakis-Ellis, DPW Director Joe Conway, DPW Business Manager Ann Waitt, Matt Abrahams of The Abrahams Group, and Clerk Anna Amatucci.

Item 2 | Public Participation: residents of North Emerson St. and Sycamore Rd.

Item 3 | Tree Hearings: 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 **North Emerson St.**
14, 15, 21, 25, 34, 42 **Sycamore Rd.**

Mr. Fazio spoke about removal of these trees due to several factors. The locust trees are not the proper species for these locations. The trees in these neighborhoods have been an ongoing issue creating sidewalk/driveway repairs, wall cracking, and high service root repair. It has become a safety and accountability issue. DPW will remove trees, grind stumps, and replant with different species that are preferably smaller. Board Member Ms. Proakis-Ellis mentioned the new trees planted in the Greenwood area and how the smaller tree branches hanging lower toward sidewalks could create a concern. Mr. Fazio responded that the grass strips have gotten smaller so it is challenging to plant a tree with a larger root ball.

- Janice Iosua of 29 North Emerson St. asked if the DPW will repair her wall and driveway when the tree comes down, since the root has gone up the wall into the driveway. She has already patched the wall and spent money several times in the past for repairs. According to Mr. Fazio, it will be challenging to go into the winter for repairs, and he will have to check it out and see how far the root has gone. The town will make an assessment and there will be an agreement of what DPW will do.
- Matthew DiPace of 27 North Emerson St. asked if DPW replaces the sewer line due to outgrown roots. Mr. Fazio said it is town policy that DPW is not responsible for sewer issues due to grown roots. If resident has service done or relines the pipe, and the trunk becomes comprised, DPW will make an assessment if tree has to come down.
- John Rinaldi of 21 Sycamore Rd. requests a timeline of when work will be done to which Mr. Fazio said the tree removal and stump grinding will occur in the winter, and any sidewalk repair, due to removal, will be done in the spring.
- Daniel Law of 34 North Emerson has had property damage to his wall due to roots. He has had it mortared and fixed. He is also concerned about replacing the same number of trees in front of his house as will come down. Mr. Fazio assured Mr. Law that DPW would replace the same number of trees that they take down. In regards to the wall repair, Mr. Fazio asked Mr. Law to get a quote for repair and submit it to Town Hall for review.

Board Member Ms. Proakis-Ellis made a motion to accept Dennis Fazio's recommendations for tree removal and replacement on North Emerson St. Motion seconded by Chair Mr. Tarr. Motion carries 3-0.

Vice Chair Ms. Palomino made a motion to endorse Dennis Fazio's recommendations for removal and replacing trees noted on Sycamore Rd. Motion seconded by Chair Mr. Tarr. Motion carries 3-0.

Item 4 | Second Meters: After reviewing survey results and the presentation by Matt Abrahams, the Board members will postpone a vote for second meters. Board Member Ms. Proakis-Ellis recommends the Board reopen the discussion on this topic in two years. Motion seconded by Chair Mr. Tarr. Motion carries 3-0.

Item 5 | Water Dispute Requests: None

Item 6 | New Business: Mr. Conway mentioned construction winding down, as we enter the winter. DPW is navigating new territory with the Mass DEP mandate for mattress and box spring pick-ups starting December 1st. DPW is working its way through this foreign territory, due to the uncertainty of the number of mattresses and box springs from month to month. Chair Tarr mentioned if there was something the town could do when it's a very windy day and the recycling is blown all over the street. DPW agreed and will work on it.

Vice Chair Ms. Palomino asked how the Wakefield Crossing water issue is going, and how that matter could be resolved. Ms. Palomino mentioned that when determining rates, the scenario brought up by Wakefield Crossing did not come up in the discussion. Director Mr. Conway said the building was not constructed to sub meter, therefore does not qualify for unit averaging. He mentioned a by-law change can be proposed in the future, allowing for equity and fairness pre-construction.

Item 7 | Next Meeting: To be determined

Item 8 | Adjournment: Chair Mr. Tarr made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. All approved. Motion carries 3-0.

