

Chapter 24

Trees

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Sec. 24-1. Intent and purpose

It is the intent of this bylaw to sustain environmental health, enhance the economic well-being and maintain the quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Stoneham. Public trees make an important contribution to the character and heritage of Stoneham's neighborhoods. This bylaw establishes policy for ensuring the health and longevity of the Town's trees.

Sec. 24-2. Tree Warden

The care and management of public trees shall be the responsibility of the Tree Warden, appointed in accordance with MGL c. 41 § 106, or that official's designee. The Tree Warden is responsible for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other designated public places in accordance with MGL c. 87, § 2.

Sec. 24-3. Public Shade Trees

It shall be the policy of the Town of Stoneham to encourage the conservation of public shade trees (as defined in MGL c. 87 § 1) and to establish a planned program of replacement on a one-for-one basis of all public shade trees removed due to disease, death, public nuisance, construction or safety. The Tree Warden shall determine the type and size of the replacement tree. While the goal under this policy is to have a public shade tree planted in the same location as the removed tree, the replacement tree may instead be planted in an alternate location at the discretion of the Tree Warden if necessary.

Sec. 24-4. Tree Committees

There shall be a Tree Committee to facilitate and encourage the long term health of Stoneham's public trees. Said committee, once appointed, shall develop and administer a comprehensive tree management program to guide the Town and the Committee's activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Facilitating and encouraging the long term health of Stoneham's public trees and promoting native tree species;
- (2) Performing tree surveys, inventories and evaluations;
- (3) Creating manuals or guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other designated public places;
- (4) Developing best management practices for urban forestry and silvicultural work;
- (5) Working in conjunction with the Tree Warden to seek grants or other assistance concerning the preservation and maintenance of trees in Town; and
- (6) Performing public education and coordination with civic groups to promote Arbor Day and other special events related to public trees.

The duties and responsibilities of the Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Writing and updating an annual community forestry work plan;
- (2) Advising the Town Administrator in matters related to the care and management of Town owned properties that contain public trees;
- (3) Advising the Select Board, Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission, the Open Space and Recreation Committee and other local organizations on projects and activities involving public trees in Town;
- (4) Advising the Tree Warden on planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other appropriate public places; and
- (5) Engaging in projects and activities that promote sustainable forestry and the long term health of public trees in Town, including programs and community events.

The Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Town Administrator and will include three ex-officio members which shall be one member of the Conservation Commission, one member of the Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee and the tree warden. In the beginning, two members shall be appointed for a term of three years, two members shall be appointed for a term of two years, and one member shall be appointed for a term of one year. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed to a term of three years. Each term shall expire at the end of the appropriate fiscal year.

Sec. 24-5. Private tree planting

All contractors, builders, companies, corporations or individuals who or which promote the construction of multiple houses, housing units or developments or the erection of three or more houses in a given area shall be required to plant two trees for each lot and four trees for every

corner lot. Such planting shall be done before the street is paved and must be in accordance with the specifications as prescribed by the Tree Warden.