

Tree Ordinance Update & Recommendations

September 12, 2022

Conservation Advisory Council

Why is the CAC here tonight?

CAC believes there is a lack of awareness of the Tree Preservation Ordinance (TPO).

- New residents or property owners aren't informed of the ordinance when they move to town
- Unless property owners are curious, most are not aware of the TPO
- Tree cutting companies are not required to inform homeowners

As a result:

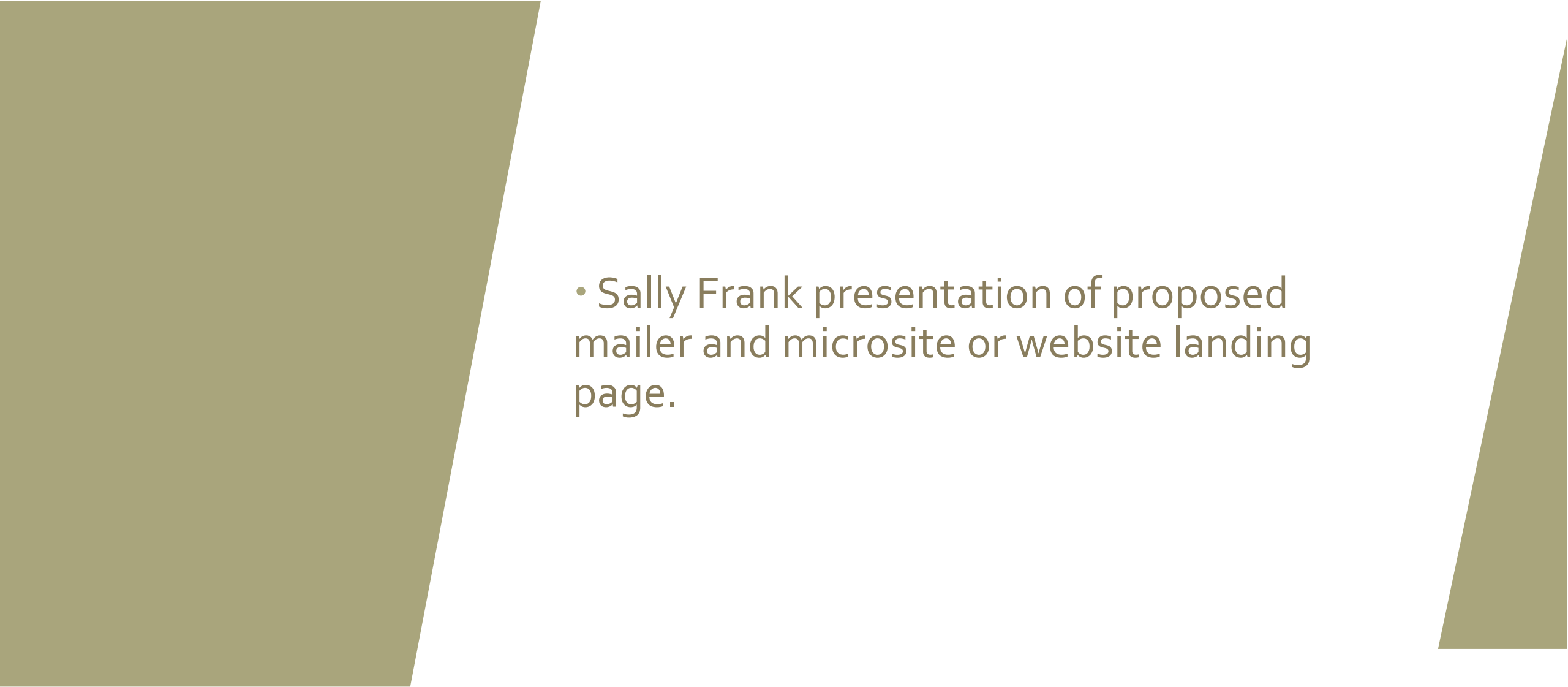
- No tree permits have been issued in +12 months even though potential violations have been identified and reported
 - At least one new construction site clear-cut an entire lot without permit. The neighbor notified the town, but clear-cutting continued
 - Another resident cut more than 10 trees, was told by the town to stop but they continued anyway
- Residents do not know when a permit is needed or not needed
- Residents don't know who makes decisions around tree cutting
- In some cases, residents are aware of the ordinance but choose to ignore it

Ordinance enforcement resources

After discussions with the building department about potential violations, the CAC has learned that a lack of department resources has hindered the department's ability to enforce the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

CAC actions so far:

- CAC chair has discussed ordinance enforcement with new and previous building inspectors
- CAC has developed a draft for a postcard to send to all town residents providing pertinent information about the Tree Preservation Ordinance in brief
- CAC has developed a draft of a Tree Ordinance website landing page with a custom URL (microsite) to be inserted into the Town website to provide easy access to information with easy-to-understand bullet points including:
 - Highlights of the Tree Preservation Ordinance
 - FAQs regarding the permitting requirements and process
 - Provides motivation for adhering to the tree ordinance
 - Additional information about local trees

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- Sally Frank presentation of proposed mailer and microsite or website landing page.

Mailer



Town of Lewisboro



What Every Homeowner Should Know

Before you cut down a tree, check the ordinance!

Visit www.LewisboroTownTreeOrdinance.com to learn:

- When IS a Tree Removal Permit required?
- When is a Tree Removal Permit NOT required?

www.LewisboroTreeOrdinance.com

The Town of Lewisboro Tree Preservation Ordinance was created to preserve and protect the trees in our community, while balancing the rights of homeowners to use and enjoy their property.

Why Lewisboro loves trees –

- Trees contribute to the beauty of our landscape.
- Trees provide wildlife habitat.
- Trees add value to homes and properties.
- Shade trees can reduce utility bills.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide and filter air.
- Trees help reduce stormwater runoff and ground erosion.

Visit LewisboroTownTreeOrdinance.com to learn more.



POSTAGE

John Smith
123 Main Street
Small Town, USA 00000-0000



What the CAC is requesting from the Board

Goals of requests:

- Raise community awareness of the tree preservation ordinance
- Make it easy for residents to get important information without having to call the building department or town

What the CAC is requesting from the Board

- **Assistance for the building department in order to enforce the ordinance**
 - Informed residences
 - Enhanced enforcements
- **Clarify the law where needed**
- **Approval for the postcard mailer including resources**
 - Cost - between \$1800 and \$2000 estimate
 - Access to Town mailing lists and any other resources for mailers
- **Approval to Tree Ordinance landing page for the Town website**
- **Enhancement of enforcement resources in the building department**
- **Review recommended sections of the tree ordinance as identified by the CAC**