

Tree Preservation

Ordinance Update

Summary of Proposed Updates

- Add wording for Westchester County requirement for tree removal companies to be licensed
- Rewrite section on new construction to eliminate unnecessary clear cutting. New language requires homeowner to identify for removal only those trees necessary to be removed - similar to the Wetland Law
- Correction to Section 203-4 B (9). The current statement is an error allowing an exemption in a Special Character Overlay District. New language is being proposed in both the Tree Preservation Ordinance and Section 220-31 of the Special Character Overlay District to make them both consistent and correct.
- New language in the penalty section is being proposed to allow the convening authority to require tree replacement and a table of of replacements is included. Fine reduction may be reduced if proper replacement takes place.

Enforcement

I spoke to people in the building departments of Bedford and North Salem that have similar Tree Ordinances about enforcement.

- Bedford has an enforcement officer who handle the Tree Ordinance, wetlands and other violations
- North Salem's building inspector handles both the Tree Ordinance and Wetland violations and these are reported to their Planning Board
- - Because he handles all three jobs, he is very aware of violations
 - Adjudicating in from the Planning Board simplifies the process