

**January 24, 2020**

**Letter in Compliance with Chapter 87 of MGL to request preservation  
of three trees at Whittemore Park specified below**

**Dear Chairperson Mahon, Select Board Members, and Warden  
Lecuivre,**

**Please be advised that the trees to be considered for felling at the Tree  
Hearing on Jan. 28 [Yellowwood (DBH 12", Norway Maple (DBH  
22"), Norway Maple (DBH 16") by request of Arlington Planning  
Department] should certainly not be removed.**

**These trees are essential for the wellbeing of residents especially elderly  
and disabled who need summer shade to thrive and help them negotiate  
their visits to Arlington Center. Whittemore Park is within walking  
distance from three senior residences of the Arlington Housing  
Authority. Many seniors can comfortably walk there but need a shady  
place to rest even after this short walk. If removed the shade of these  
trees cannot be replaced for decades and even then it would be a  
struggle to get shade trees established in this heavily trafficked busiest  
area of Town. We are very fortunate that they are there. You should  
be aware also of the contribution that the removal of these trees would  
make to dangerous heat island effects which are all too frequent along  
such busy corridors.**

**<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=49986>**

**Clearly the Planning Department's request for this tree removal is  
antithetical to the emphasis on risks to seniors from high heat climate  
conditions as described in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Unfortunately  
the Planning Department made this irresponsible request ostensibly "to  
install ADA compliant walkway and improve pedestrian safety."  
It is outrageous that the planning officials used the disabled population  
as their excuse to try to remove these trees. Disabled persons need tree  
shade too. When Town Meeting was persuaded to approve the  
allocation of funds to improve this area they were not fully informed of  
the possible removal of these healthy trees. Individuals including those**

**from the Tree Committee, Chamber of Commerce or Planning Department should thus not use Town Meeting's approval of funding as a reason to cut down these trees. The Planning Department should direct the chosen landscapers to find another design and location for a safe path which preserves the trees. The very lucrative landscaping contract can certainly accommodate creation of a planned design to save the trees**

**Thank you for your consideration of this request,**

**Very truly yours,**

**Patricia.**

**Patricia Barron Worden, Ph.D.  
Town Meeting Member**

**p.s. I can't believe that this kind of thing might happen. I just had a 50-ft. approximately 65-year-old Norway Maple in our backyard cabled and trimmed to preserve it and maintain safety. Yes, they are considered weeds when in areas in which they are likely to propagate since they have such viability but in an urban setting when established they are a valuable resource. Two of three excellent tree companies advised me to do so saying it would have many more good years. How can the Planning Department wave a wand and do away with three healthy trees in our Town Centre to accommodate a favored landscaping company?**