

From: Susan Stamps

Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 15:19

To: Claire Ricker; Rachel Zsembery; Kin Lau; Shaina Korman-Houston; Eugene Benson; Stephen Revilak

Subject: Proposed zoning bylaw amendment for tonight s. 6.3 Public Shade Trees & same re Industrial District

Hi all - My apologies for the late notice! I would like to propose an amendment to the two sections of the ZBL which require that a developer plant street trees - s. 6.3 (Residential, Business & Multifamily districts) and the section which provides similar obligations in the Industrial District [I am unable to find that section at the moment].

The existing language (6.3.4.A) requires the developer to provide a street tree every 25' along the public way where there is not already a street tree, planting to be in existing or proposed planting strips or sidewalk tree wells.

To avoid the possible situation where both the planting strip and the sidewalk are either too small or nonexistent, thus leaving no place to plant the trees, I propose adding a sentence to 6.3.4.A and to the comparable zoning provision relating to the Industrial District: "If there is no room for a planting on a tree strip or sidewalk, then street trees shall be planted on the project property up to 20' from the public way."

This amendment would ensure that trees get planted close to a development, thus mitigating the common heat island effect of development, even when there is no tree strip, or there is a tree strip but it is not big enough to accommodate a large shade tree at maturity, or there is ground between the sidewalk and the street but no curb so the soil and grass is washed away leaving no place to plant a tree.

This proposal is based on a similar provision in the state public shade tree law, c.87, s. 7 which allows the Tree Warden the option to plant public trees on private property within 20 feet of the public way:

"The tree warden, or a private organization acting with the written consent of the tree warden, may plant shade trees...in a public way, or if he deems it expedient, upon adjoining land at a distance not exceeding 20 feet from the layout of such public way...provided, however, that the written consent of the owner of such adjoining land shall first be obtained."

Coincidentally, Arlington will soon start a pilot program of planting trees on private property per s. 7 which several area towns are already doing (including Cambridge, Brookline, Waltham, Lexington, Concord, Natick, Framingham, and Waltham) These trees are typically called "setback trees" or "back of sidewalk trees." For now, we are calling them "Back of Sidewalk trees."

Thank you,
~ Susan

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