



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF ARLINGTON
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Memo to: Select Board

From: Mike Rademacher, DPW Director

Date: May 15, 2020

Subject: Tree Removal Request
Mass Ave Center Sidewalk Project and Minuteman Bike Path/Lake Street Project

This memo serves as a request for tree removal approvals associated with two current Town construction projects detailed below. While I would typically hold Tree Hearings separate from a Select Board request, the current Covid-19 situation we find ourselves in makes that extremely challenging and State Law allows for the Select Board to vote on tree removals for certain public construction projects. Both of these projects, including the impacts and proposed plantings, were discussed at a Tree Committee Meeting on May 13th.

Massachusetts Avenue Sidewalk Replacement (Pleasant Street to Franklin Street)

Associated with this project is the request to remove one tree. The tree in question is in front of 420 Massachusetts Ave and is a 14" Honey Locust. It is located too close to an existing driveway opening and it was determined that the construction of a proper driveway apron will compromise the tree roots such that it would be unlikely to survive. The project proposes to plant a new tree (Red Maple) at this general location approximately 10 feet from the driveway opening.

The planting of nine additional trees are also proposed as part of this project. They consist of two in front of Whittemore Park, one in front of 309 Broadway (Brickstone Pizza), four along Broadway adjacent to the American Alarm building parking lot and two along Franklin St. adjacent to Play Time. These trees consist of Red Maples and Green Vase Zelkovas. The tree species were reviewed and approved by Arlington's Tree Warden as suitable street trees. A sketch is attached identifying the tree to be removed and the proposed new trees.

We currently have bids in hand for the project and are hopeful we can start in early June.

Minuteman Path Improvements at Lake Street

Over the past few years, a design has been developed to improve operation at this location for pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicle operators with regard to mobility and safety. A review committee was formed to oversee the design which included members of the DPW, APD, TAC, Walking in Arlington, and ABAC.

The resulting project includes new signalization at the bike path and as well as widening of the path at the intersection of Lake Street. This widening allows for pedestrians and cyclists to have their own lanes when crossing Lake Street. The widening also impacted several mature trees. As shown on the attached sketch, six

trees are proposed to be removed to allow for the widening of the path. In order to offset these removals, the DPW proposes to plant 8 new trees at the site. The new trees consist of Lindens, Hophornbeams, Hornbeams, Tulip Trees and Princeton Elms. The proposed trees are also shown on the attached plan.

In addition to the trees proposed at the project site, the DPW will make a commitment to plant additional street trees in the adjacent neighborhoods during our next available spring and fall planting programs. A sketch showing possible proposed locations is also attached.

The Town's Tree Warden was involved with the project in both helping to minimize disruption to existing trees as well as helping to select the new plantings.

This project has been bid and awarded. It is our desire to complete construction over the summer while school is out.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.



Tree Inventory

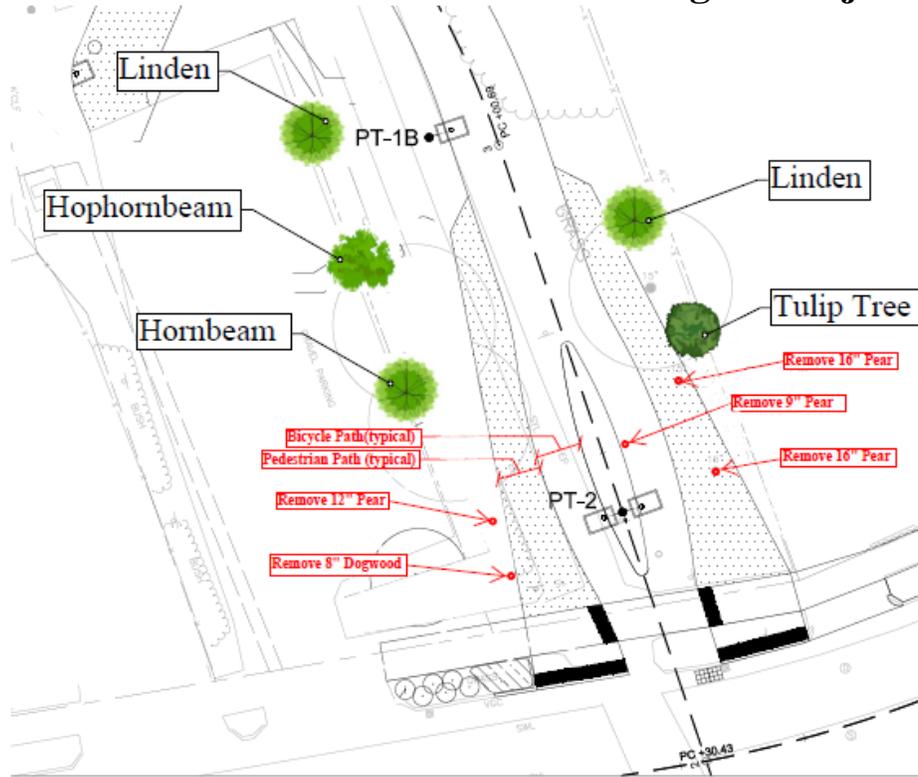
Massachusetts Avenue Sidewalk Reconstruction Project

Arlington, MA

Legend

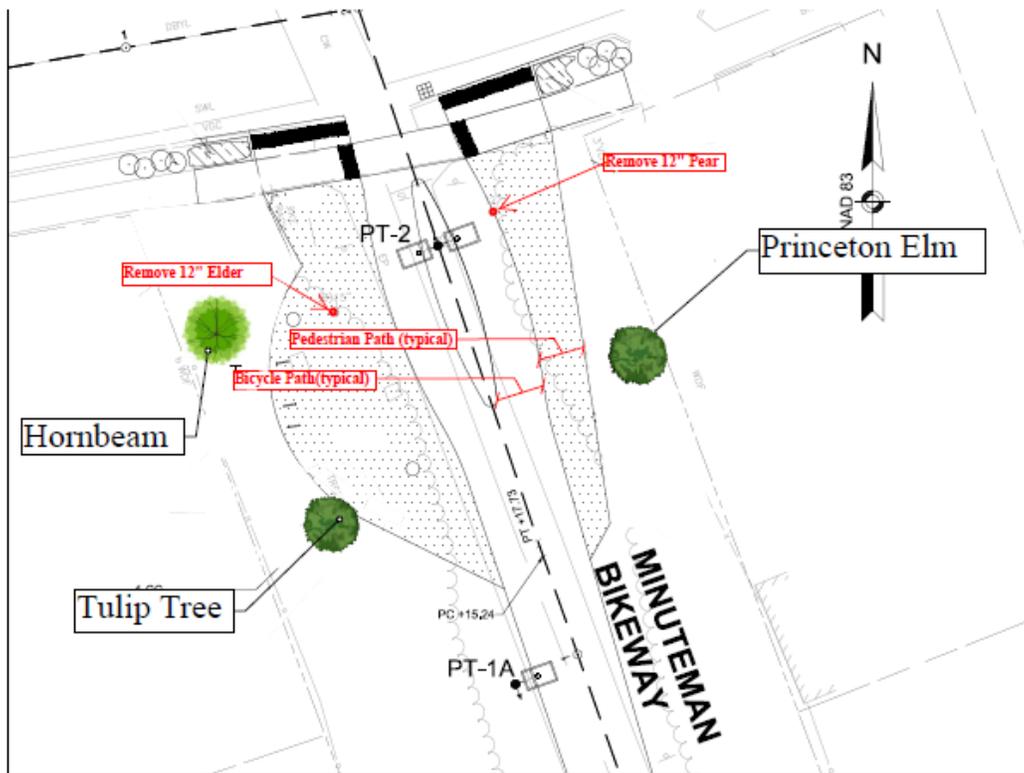
- EXISTING TREE
- ✕ TREE REMOVED - SIDEWALK PROJECT IMPACTS
- NEW TREE

Lake Street – Minuteman BikePath Traffic Signal Project Tree Plan



1 PLANTING PLAN NORTH OF LAKE STREET

Tree Removal and Planting Sketch (North)



2 PLANTING PLAN SOUTH OF LAKE STREET

Tree Removal and Planting Sketch (South)

Additional Tree Planting Locations

