

Hazardous trees to be removed in Plainfield

As part of their regular cycle of work in Plainfield, Eversource has identified trees that pose a hazard to power lines and has marked those that they have determined should be removed. Those trees have been marked with blue tags and spray paint, and crews are expected to be in town over the next few months to cut them down.

Residents with trees on their property that have been identified as hazardous have either had conversations with the arborist as he has conducted his survey, or have had slips left on their door to sign indicating their consent to have the trees removed. If a homeowner opposes the removal, crews will not cut the tree down.

The vast majority of these trees are on town rights-of-way alongside roads, and the tree warden has surveyed those trees along with Eversource's arborist and concurred that they pose a hazard and should be removed safely to avoid having them fall on power lines or roadways.

While every effort is being made to retain as many trees as possible, the reality is that many roadside trees are dying and decaying, both as part of their natural life cycle and as a result of stress from increased traffic. As they continue to age and rot the chance of them falling on their own and potentially doing significant damage increases. The best option is to take advantage of the services offered by Eversource. Removal of large trees can cost the town as much as \$1,000, and the town budget only allocates \$5,000 a year for this purpose and so is unable to keep up with the need.

Some residents have expressed an interest in the town supporting the planting of new trees to replace those being removed, and ideas for doing so are welcomed. It is difficult for small saplings to survive alongside roads, though, so consideration should be given to where and how best to go about this.

If residents identify town trees along roadways that have been marked that they feel should not be removed, the tree warden is available to make additional inspections and consider alternative determinations. Contact Winton Pitcoff at 634-5728, or winton@pitcoff.com.

As part of an unrelated project, Eversource will also be removing trees along their right-of-way that follows the high-tension lines that run through town beginning in December. They have been reaching out to affected landowners along that corridor individually. If you have questions about this process, call 888-673-9943 or email MAVegMaintenance@eversource.com.

Winton Pitcoff, Tree Warden