

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
VILLAGE TREE BOARD  
November 1, 2016**

The specially scheduled meeting of the Hinsdale Village Tree Board was called to order by Acting Chair Trustee Laura LaPlaca in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 5:08 p.m., roll call was taken.

Present: Acting Chair Trustee Laura LaPlaca and Trustees Luke Stifflear, and Bob Saigh

Absent: Gerald J. Hughes

Also Present: Director of Public Services George Peluso, Village Forester John Finnell, Management Analyst Suzanne Ostrovsky and Village Clerk Christine Bruton

**PARKWAY TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 631 SOUTH GARFIELD STREET**

Ms. Christin Stefani, homeowner at 631 S. Garfield Street, addressed the Board. She explained that she had appeared last month before the Zoning Board of Appeals for a two foot variance for a circle driveway. She made her case that this was necessary because of safety issues, and the ZBA approved the request. Initially they did not think they would need any permissions from the Tree Board, but her architect, Mr. Dennis Parsons, reviewed the plans and because of the shape of the driveway there were additional issues when backing out. It is a funky turn and hard to navigate. She referenced letters of support from people who have had occasion to use her driveway. This is a turn radius issue; they do not have a 100' foot lot. There are two trees on the parkway. The north one is only 4' feet from the existing driveway, but the plan calls for the removal of a maple tree on the south side. She indicated they would use pavers on the apron for the best water flow. Trustee LaPlaca pointed out that the new driveway will eliminate another tree, but it was clarified that although the Google map indicates existing trees, these are ash trees and already gone. The goal is to protect the beautiful tree on the north side. The next door neighbor's driveway is about a foot away from the tree on the north. Trustee LaPlaca clarified the \$5,000 fee. Trustee Stifflear noted the property is 73" wide, and the width of the driveway will be confirmed during the permitting process.

Trustee LaPlaca suggested a narrower circle for the driveway, but Ms. Stefani explained that Mr. Parsons proposed the smallest turn radius possible for the driveway. She stated people will still have to back out even with a circular driveway; additionally they are trying to avoid bringing the driveway all the way to the front door. The Board discussed possible alternatives; Trustee LaPlaca recommended Ms. Stefani and her architect give more thought to alternatives that could possibly save the tree.

Mr. John Finnell, Village Forester, explained a new driveway requires 10' feet from edge of drive and nearest face of tree. He said the neighbor's driveway was done with a 6' to 8' foot allowance, and a lot of hand work was done in the area of the tree.

Trustee Saigh noted safety issues on Garfield, even with the circle drives; he believes they are an outrage, and paver run-off still exists.

Trustee Stifflear reiterated a 55' foot turnaround might work, if that doesn't fit then he is on board with the request because of the safety issue. Trustee Saigh recommended Ms. Stefani review this option with her architect. Trustee LaPlaca thanked Ms. Stefani for working with the Village on this matter.

### **PARKWAY TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 843 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET**

Trustee LaPlaca introduced this item, and stated this is a situation that illustrates why the new provision of the code exists. A resident landscaped the parkway with crab apple trees, but they want to put correct trees on the parkway for the desired streetscape. Mr. Finnell said the existing trees are 15' feet, the new maple trees will reach 40' feet. They will be installed 60' feet apart, and located where there were a couple of ash trees.

The Board approved this proposal.

Trustee Saigh mentioned the Stefani situation and unintended consequences of parkway trees and circle drives. He noted pavers count as permeable surface, but agreed the Garfield situation was different. Discussion followed regarding parking pads, lot coverage issues and drainage and storm water management issues.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Stifflear **moved to adjourn the meeting of the Hinsdale Tree Board of November 1, 2016.** Trustee Saigh seconded the motion. Voice vote taken, all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine M. Bruton, Village Clerk