



MEETING AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TREE BOARD

Tuesday, November 16, 2021
7:00 P.M.

MEMORIAL HALL – MEMORIAL BUILDING
19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois
(Tentative and Subject to Change)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2, 2021
3. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION
 - a) 322 West Second Street
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. ADJOURNMENT

The Village of Hinsdale is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to promptly contact Brad Bloom, ADA Coordinator, at 630-789-7007 **or by TDD at 630-789-7022** to allow the Village of Hinsdale to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

Website <http://villageofhinsdale.org>

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**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TREE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 2, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The specially scheduled meeting of the Tree Board was called to order by Chairman Scott Banke in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., roll call was taken.

Present: Chairman Scott Banke and Trustees Matt Posthuma and Michelle Fisher

Absent: Trustee Laurel Haarlow

Also Present: Assistant to the Village Manager Trevor Bosack, Director of Public Services George Peluso, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry John Finnell, and Village Clerk Christine Bruton

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 7, 2021

Following changes to the draft minutes, Trustee Banke moved to **approve the draft minutes of the regular meeting of September 7, 2021, as amended.** Trustee Fisher seconded the motion.

Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried.

3. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

a) 121 South Monroe Street

Superintendent of Parks & Forestry John Finnell introduced the item stating the tree that is being requested to remove is a mature Norway maple, with a trunk diameter of approximately 25" inches. The tree is healthy, but has been severely pruned for power line clearance. The canopy is drastically uneven, but there is still some benefit to the street corridor and the residential side of Monroe Street. In order for staff to approve the removal of the tree it must be dead or dying, diseased, declining, storm damaged or dangerous.

Mr. Jeremy Svabek, homeowner, addressed the Board stating he does not have a driveway on his property. In order to install one, he has to remove the tree. He explained the only access to the property is through a service route railway easement. He reported there have been random instances where cars are parked on the service road and he has been unable to exit his property. Chairman Banke agreed this is a hardship, but not one that cannot be overcome. He would not approve this request.

Trustee Fisher commented the tree provides balance in the parkway and would like to see it stay. Trustee Posthuma is more ambivalent because the tree is limited by power pole and wires, and not a traditional canopy tree as a result. He is sympathetic to the issue created by the railroad easement.

Mr. Finnell pointed out there is sufficient room for a replacement tree. Mr. Svabek illustrated the location for a replacement tree. The fee will fund tree improvements, and the Village will provide and plant an appropriate tree for the site. It will still anchor the location, but not get into the wires. Chairman Banke agreed that with a replacement tree he can approve the request, and moved to **approve the request to remove a parkway tree at 121 S. Monroe Street with the payment of the fee and replacement with an appropriate tree.** Trustee Posthuma seconded the motion.

Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried.

b) **322 West Second Street**

Chairman Banke announced that the applicant is unable to be present tonight. Another meeting will be scheduled.

c) **444 East Fourth Street**

Mr. Finnell summarized the request and explained this is currently an empty lot in the historic district. The parkway on Woodside Avenue is an unmanaged public right-of-way, the Fourth Street parkway is more traditional. Staff reviewed the condition of 13 trees on the Woodside parkway, five did not meet the requirements for staff to authorize removal. These are three American elms, one mulberry, and one Norway maple. The Village has pruned and treated the elm trees, which provide a positive impact on the Woodside corner. He explained that this parkway is significantly deeper than most, and as a result some of the trees are much further back. They are in fair condition, but do not impact the streetscape because they are so far back.

Mr. Bruce Ritter, applicant, explained the rationale for proposing the driveway in the back of the property off Woodside is to better to preserve the Fourth Street parkway in the historical district. The drive court would be hidden on Woodside. He met with Village staff regarding the trees, and went back to the drawing board for an alternate proposal to save the large American elm. Chairman Banke noted the controversy with the Zook house formerly on that property, and commented that the criteria for tree removal is straightforward. He cannot approve a convenience request at the cost of the trees.

Trustee Posthuma pointed out that all the other houses on the block have a driveway on Fourth Street, so that does not seem that meaningful from an historic point of view.

Mr. Ritter explained that he went through the review process with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). They presented a design for the future house created by a nationally known architect designed with sensitivity to the historic district, and the Zook house that was there. The HPC loves the idea of not having another driveway on Fourth Street. This was a very considered design. He explained that the homeowner is sensitive to taking out trees, and would rather not, however, what they are proposing will be an enhancement to Woodside and the area. The homeowner will maintain the parkway and right-of-way, and put in new plantings, as provided in the plan. They are adding more than subtracting.

Trustee Fisher asked for clarification about the tree locations. Board discussion followed. It was confirmed there is no driveway and no access to the property. The location of the drive is deed restricted to the west side.

Mr. Finnell explained the water management restrictions and existing swale. Mr. Ritter explained the stormwater improvements, and the driveway is part of that design. Following the direction of the Board, the applicant agreed to their alternative driveway location on Woodside in order to save the larger, more valuable American elm. Staff will take another inventory of the trees, and measure those that will need to be removed to determine the final fee.

Chairman Banke moved to **approve the removal of those trees necessary to install a driveway off Woodside on the western portion of the property at 444 E. Fourth Street, subject to forester survey to determine fee.** Trustee Posthuma seconded the motion.

Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried.

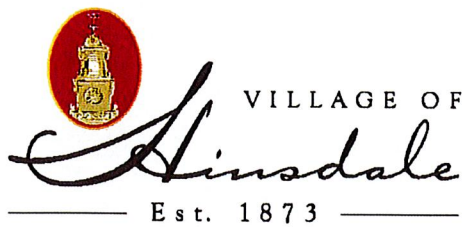
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Banke **moved to adjourn the meeting of the Tree Board of November 2, 2021.** Trustee Posthuma seconded the motion. Voice vote taken, all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Christine M. Bruton, Village Clerk



19 East Chicago Avenue
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521
(630) 789-7000
www.villageofhinsdale.org

DATE: October 29, 2021
TO: Chairman Banke and Tree Board Members
FROM: John Finnell, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry
RE: Parkway Tree Removal Request – 322 West 2nd Street

Mr. Zaim Sakiri is requesting a permit to remove a littleleaf linden in the parkway to install a driveway as part of a new residential construction project. Mr. Sakiri has provided additional information that is included in the packet for review by the Tree Board.

The tree is a mature littleleaf linden that has a 24" diameter at 4.5' above grade. The estimated height of the tree is 60' and the estimated canopy width is 45'. The tree's condition is good, and the shoot growth in the canopy is average. There are no significant visible structural defects in the trunk, or scaffold branches. The base of the tree has swelling at the graft union. The tree is properly spaced in the parkway and provides a positive impact on the street corridor.

Staff determined that the tree does not meet the forestry program's requirements for tree removal because the tree is not dead, dangerous or in significant decline and did not permit the initial request for removal of the tree. In response to the denial of tree removal by Staff, Mr. Sakiri is requesting consideration from the Tree Board.

Board Action for Consideration:

Staff is seeking a recommendation from the Tree Board on the removal of the tree under section of the Village Code (Title 7, Chapter 2, Section 2 B1).

John Finnell

From: John Finnell
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Zaim Sakiri
Cc: patrickjdoherty@ameritech.net; George Peluso; Christine Bruton
Subject: RE: 322 W 2nd Street

Hello Mr. Sakiri

Thank you for stopping by to discuss the tree and proposed drive. As part of the building permit application process, I inspected the parkway Littleleaf Linden and confirmed the tree is in good structural condition and health and does not meet the guidelines for the removal. Here is some information from the Village's Tree Manual:

- The purpose of removing trees is to maintain public safety. Trees are removed because they are dead or declining (including decay and loss of structural stability) or have been damaged by storms and lightning. Trees are not removed when there are perceived nuisances. These nuisances may include leaf drop, small twig drop, flowers, fruits or nuts, sap, insects or other wildlife.

In order to remove a parkway tree that does not have these conditions you would need the approval of the Village's Tree Board and secure a permit to remove the parkway tree. The Tree Board members will inspect the tree and determine if the removal request is acceptable. I will work towards getting a meeting set up and let you know when we have a meeting time and date.. The Tree Board review your request as outlined in your email below. There is a permit fee required. The Village Code is below:

B. Work On Public Trees:

1. Permit Required: It shall be unlawful to remove, cut down or otherwise work on any tree or shrub in any public street or parkway or other public place without having first secured a permit from the village. Applications for such permits shall be made to the director of public services or the village forester, who shall have authority to issue such permits for good cause shown. The director of public services or the village forester may, at his or her discretion, seek a recommendation on the issuance of a permit hereunder from the tree board (as established under section 7-2-10 of this chapter). Except as set forth below, a fee of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) shall be paid to the village for any permit issued hereunder to remove or cut down any tree in any public street or parkway. However, the fee for issuance of a permit to remove or cut down a tree under this section shall be increased to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) if the owner of any property for which a building permit has been issued applies for a permit hereunder after the issuance of the building permit.

2. Permit To Move A Public Tree: No fee hereunder shall apply for a permit issued to move a tree on any public street or parkway to another location on a public street or parkway (said location to be determined by the director of public services or the village forester); provided, however, that any permit to move such a tree shall provide that if, within a time specified by the director of public services or the village forester (not to exceed 36 months) from the date of the issuance of the permit, the tree dies then the five thousand dollar (\$5,000.00) fee designated under subsection B1 of this section shall apply and be paid to the Village. Death of a tree shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Director of Public Services or the Village Forester.

3. Work Without A Permit: Any person who removes or cuts down any tree in any public street or parkway or other public place without a permit from the Village, or causes the death of a tree in any public street or parkway or other public place by negligence or failure to adequately protect said tree during construction on that person's property, shall pay the Village a permit fee of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00).

4. **Diseased Or Damaged Trees; Health Of Surrounding Trees:** The fees set forth under this provision regarding permits for the removal or moving of trees and removal of trees without a permit shall not apply if in the opinion of the Director of Public Services or the Village Forester the tree should be removed: a) due to disease or damage unrelated to any construction on the property; or b) if removal of the tree due to its location, condition or other factors would benefit the health and/or viability of surrounding trees.

5. **Forestry Goals:** The Director of Public Services or the Village Forester may, at his or her discretion, seek a recommendation from the Tree Board on a waiver of the permit fees set forth under this provision for the removal and/or replacement of a tree on public property, if in the opinion of the Director of Public Services or the Village Forester the location and/or mature height, width or form of the tree on public property negatively impacts surrounding trees on public property and/or would not promote the development of a full and healthy street corridor as set forth in the Village's "Community Forestry Manual of Policy and Procedures". Replacement of the tree may be required at the discretion of the Tree Board and such replacement as to location and species shall be in accordance with the aforementioned Village Manual of Policy and Procedures.

6. **Commercial Development:** The fees set forth under this provision regarding permits for the removal or moving of trees and removal of trees without a permit shall not apply if the removal or moving of said tree(s) is pursuant to a landscape plan approved by the Board of Trustees as part of a commercial development.

7. **Public Tree Appeals:** An appeal from the decision of the Director of Public Services or the Village Forester regarding a permit under this section or the imposition of a related fee may be taken to the Tree Board by the person or entity aggrieved by said decision, any such appeal to be taken within sixty (60) days of the date of the decision. The decision of the Tree Board in the case of an appeal shall be final.

8. **Work On Public And Private Trees:** Any person doing tree work on elm or ash trees on either public or private property in the Village is required to sanitize their equipment by cleaning all pruning and cutting tools with rubbing alcohol between uses so as to prevent the spread of disease or fungus. (Ord. O2016-16, 3-17-2016)

9. Tree Fund: All fees collected pursuant to this provision shall be placed in a Tree Fund, the proceeds of which shall be used only for the replacement of trees on public property or for the maintenance or treatment of trees on public property or, with the consent of the Tree Board, for educational or informational programming or materials pertaining directly to trees on public property, including information regarding the varieties of trees, as well as their maintenance and preservation. (Ord. O2017-06, 3-7-2017)

Please let me know if you have any questions and concerns.

Best regards,

John

John Finnell
Village of Hinsdale
Superintendent of Parks and Forestry

P 630 789 7043
E jfinnell@villageofhinsdale.org



From: Zaim Sakiri <zaimsakiri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:17 AM
To: John Finnell <JFinnell@villageofhinsdale.org>
Cc: patrickjdoherty@ameritech.net
Subject: 322 W 2nd Street

Good morning Mr. Finnell,

It was a pleasure meeting you today to discuss our project, especially the concern about the tree being in the middle of the proposed driveway. From the day we purchased the property, we knew due to the size of the lot, this would be very challenging to build a house that would flow with the contour of the beautiful homes in the vicinity. So I took the first step and I approach the neighbors and listened to their concerns and opinions and consulted with our engineer and architect. This was the best and only option to pursue due to the fact that if we push the garage back, there will be no yard for the kids and would be too close to the neighbor's property and the back yard would be taken by a long driveway which would reduce the appearance and functionality as well as the value of the house. That's why Mr. Finnell I ask you and the board to take this into consideration. were looking forward to working with you and getting this resolved.

Thank you

sincerely,
Zaim Sakiri

630-240-3495

14291 131st Street

Lemont, IL 60439

