

City Of Bristol

Tree Hearing

The Board of Public Works/Tree Hearing will be held on November 5, 2024, in Meeting Room 2-2 (second floor), 11 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut

Agenda

1. Call To Order

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., City of Bristol Tree Warden, called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

This is a hearing regarding the property identified as 163 Church Ave. A roll call was done for those attending on Zoom.

Ryan Scrittoral, Alfred Benesch 120 Hebron Ave, Glastonbury
Delaney Pilotte, Alfred Benesch, 120 Hebron Ave, Glastonbury
Chris Nardi, Silver Petricelli and Associates 3190 Whitney Avenue, Hamden

2. Presentation of Request to Remove Trees

Delaney Pilotte, Benesch explained, the site is being proposed as the site of the new fire station for the City of Bristol and has been approved by planning and zoning. The proposal is to remove 11 trees within the limit of disturbance. These trees are being taken down and adding both four deciduous and 56 evergreens to the site to mitigate the removal of those trees as well as multiple perennials to help mitigate any drawbacks we may see to the pollinator or bird population.

The remaining 11 trees will be protected and will remain. A few of the trees do have some dying or dead branches as well as low hanging heavy branches that seem to pose a danger to the site. This is why the use of the site as well as the quality of the trees as justification of removal in addition to the replacement of those trees. She also reviewed the site plan

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, stated the trees were flagged in accordance with the state statute. The orange flagged are the ones being taken down and the colored ribbons are not being removed and are being protected.

Delaney Pilotte, Benesch, stated, yes, she walked the site after the tagging was done. The reason for the evergreens as a buffer between this area and the surrounding uses and residents that live nearby. This will also provide year- round coverage for the buffer as well. Multiple perennials, deciduous and evergreen shrubs will help mitigate and boost the number of pollinators, birds that would be on site and continue to live there.

3. Information of Health of Trees

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, stated he did a preliminary assessment. The seven trees are in good health, but they are being removed to facilitate the construction of the new firehouse, not due to the health of the trees.

Delaney Pilitte Benesch, stated that we agree with that statement. It is not necessarily out want to remove any healthy trees, but for the use and the requirements of use of the site, we are not removing any tress that do not need to be removed.

4. Tree Removal Mitigation Measures/Tree Planting Plan

No additional info added

5. Public Participation

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, stated that this is the public participation portion of the hearing. He asks that you identify yourself and present any concern associated with the tree removal.

Emilio Martinez, New Britain, asked what constitutes limit of a disturbance. Can the rotting branches be trimmed and maintain the tree rather than cut it down?

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, stated the purpose of the hearing is to give you an opportunity to express your concerns of why the trees are being cut down. Based on testimony, they are designated as healthy for seven of the eleven. The reason they are being cut down, is the parcel is being proposed to be constructed as a firehouse.

Emilio Martinez, New Britain, Connecticut, stated there is a fire house down the street and seems unnecessary to build another. You can potentially revamp the old one. The planting of evergreens is not the same and you are altering the eco system. There are already alerts for fires, cutting more down when there are trees burning down, is unnecessary altering of the eco system.

Deshaun Hightower, New Britain, how many evergreens are being replanted.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, Proposal is to remove eleven trees, replanting will be 4 deciduous trees and 56 evergreens are being planted.

Deshaun Hightower, New Britain, stated trees are susceptible to a number of pests and now you are introducing a new eco system and asked what was being done to prevent that. Also 56 trees seem a little excessive when those resources could be mitigated to the existing firehouse.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E, Tree Warden, reminded that this is not a question and answer, it is a testimony meeting. He asked is anyone representing the fire department was present.

Chief Rick Hart, Bristol Fire Chief, stated that the current firehouse at 81 Church is insufficient in size and the age for the modern-day firehouses. There is also no space to house the second ladder truck which is necessary to expand service to the community.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, asked if a renovation was considered.

Chief Rick Hart, Bristol Fire Chief, stated they did, but the size and age of the building and the land size does not allow adequate expansion.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, stated he received a request to possibly save the trunk material to build a table for the firehouse and a local woodcarver as well for other art work as well.

Cheryl Thibeault, 73 Yarde Drive, City Council Member, stated that the response time to Forestville is critical the addition of a ladder truck will be essential for the local business and reach those higher elevations. The prior station is on a severe curve and has had multiple accidents there. The new location will have greater visibility. I am also on the City Art and Culture Committee that has sent artists to utilize the wood to be used elsewhere in the city. It is needed and there is no other open space to serve the community. We view this in Forestville and the rest of the district that this fire house is needed, it will bring a valuable asset to the community and we fully support this project.

Kurt Kemmling, 15 Stafford Avenue, stated they walk by the property and talk to the fireman and are in support of the need. Can some of the trees be repurposed into benches at the park near the barber shop.

Cheryl Thibeault, stated that is not a park due to reclamation. There can be certain trees that can be planted there to draw out the contaminants or maybe paved as a parking lot, but would be hesitant to have people using as a park.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, reminded attendees that the purpose of the hearing is to obtain information in an unbiased way.

Sean Moore, 223 Hollyberry Road, Fire Board, asked if Delaney could speak to the Evergreen issues raised and the side effects of adding the trees. My observation is for every tree we take down we are planting five which I think is very positive.

Delaney Pilte, Bensche, stated they have no concerns of disease or pest. The trees will be inspected by the landscape architect who will review the plant material before they are planted to ensure no diseases or pest are present. We cannot control what is already on the site prior to the planting. All requirements were looked at and the evergreens were a conscious decision and not taken lightly.

John Lodovico, 47 Taillon Street, stated this process has gone through the zoning and site plan approval process. This was not haphazardly done. There is a twenty- foot buffer around most of the property and this has been really thought- out plan with making sure there is minimal impact to the residential zone and borders.

Emilio Martinez, New Britain, stated that he feels that perhaps more money could be put towards more property that are abandoned or no longer used, and put money towards that instead of looking for any green patch of land with existing well-developed trees. If this does proceed, it

should be noted that art is perceptual and we should honor the earth and what grows on the trees rather than giving it to artist for whatever and not cater to non-deforestation.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, thanked everyone for their comments. This again is to hear testimony versus question and answers. All testimonies are taken into consideration. The state statute 23-59A responsibilities as the tree warden within the city. A hearing decision will be made by Thursday and will be posted on the city website. If you oppose the decision, you have the right to take legal action in superior court.

6. Adjournment

Hearing adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON
Raymond Rogozinski