

Tree Warden Public Hearing
Special Meeting Agenda
September 13, 2022
6:00 p.m. City Hall West Meeting Room One
With Zoom Access

Staff Present: Raymond Rogozinski
Laura Leger

1. Call to Order

Raymond Rogozinski, Tree Warden opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m.

2. Presentation of request for removal of tree at 71 South Street Extension

Raymond Rogozinski read emails received from Francesca and Michael Allan, the homeowners of 71 South Street Extension who are asking for the tree to be taken down.

3. Information of Health of the Tree

Raymond Rogozinski spoke to the health of the tree. A Department of Public Works crew went out and inspected the tree and reported the following: Issues of trimming the canopy of the tree to keep it from the power lines. Decay present in the crotch of the branches where it meets the trunk.

4. Public Comments

Raymond Rogozinski, Tree Warden, invited those who wanted to speak to come forward.

Raymond Rogozinski read a letter received from Jordaan Diyulio, 67 Woodland Drive, Bristol, CT who wrote the reasons as to why the tree should not be taken down.

Mary Rydingward, 176 Marcia Drive, Bristol, CT; spoke via zoom stating that the tree has clearly been trimmed several times. The branches are all under the wires. It is valuable to save the large trees, it creates healthy air. It has a calming effect on people and the neighborhood. It is the only tree left in the area for blocks. The city should work to save all trees and recognize the calming effect on the population.

John Schissler, 80 Highland Street, Bristol, CT; spoke via zoom stated he agrees with Mary. Trees should be preserved, not cut unnecessarily.

Francesca Papasa, 71 S. Street Extension, Bristol, CT; entered the meeting at close. She is the homeowner and spoke regarding the reasons why they want the tree removed. If a storm comes and the tree falls in their direction, it will damage their home. If it falls the other direction, it will take down powerlines. The roots are growing out of the soil which is making the sidewalk crooked and bumpy. The branches and leaves are on the roof and the branches are close to touching the home. Constant shade is causing the grass to turn yellow. It is not aesthetically pleasing to look at.

Raymond Rogozinski stated that per state regulations, the decision must be made within ten business days and the decision will be posted on the City's Website.

5. Adjournment

The Public Hearing was closed by the Tree Warden at 5:59 p.m.

6. Signature

Raymond Rogozinski



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

**REQUEST TO REMOVE
CITY OF BRISTOL TREE
BY
PROPERTY OWNERS 71 SOUTH STREET EXTENSION**

TREE WARDEN – DECISION

September 23, 2022

In accordance with State Statute 23-59a, a hearing was conducted on September 13, 2022 to hear the request by Michael & Francesca Allan, property owners of 71 South Street Extension. The hearing was conducted at Bristol City Hall West, Meeting Room located at 131 North Main Street at 5:30 PM.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive information and receive public comments regarding request for the Department of Public Works to removal the 40 inch diameter tulip tree from the City of Bristol's roadway right of way at 71 South Street Extension. The trees were posted in accordance with the requirements of State Statute 23-59a on August 3, 2022.

The hearing was conducted by Raymond A. Rogozinski, City of Bristol Tree Warden, Certified by the Tree Warden Association of Connecticut. Public comments were provided by Francesco Allen who indicated safety concerns associated with tree limb breaking during wind storms and concerns with damage to her house. She also indicated that the tree has been severely impacted by tree trimming by Eversource Electric stating that the tree structure of the primary limbs are like a football "goal post". Comments were also provided by Mary Rydingward (176 Marcia Drive) and John Schissler (80 Highland Street) who stated that the trees should be preserved and that trees have benefits such as creating healthy air, providing a calming effect on people and that the tree in question is the only large remaining street tree in the neighborhood. Ms. Rydingward also emailed the Tree Warden additional photographs that were made part of the record. Raymond A Rogozinski, Tree warden stated that the DPW Street Division tree crew inspected the tree and observed rot at the primary limb connection to the trunk.

The role of the tree warden is to balance tree preservation along with public safety and risk of damage. Following the tree hearing Raymond Rogozinski directed the DPW tree crew to re-inspect the tree. Based on the inspection, the tree crew, observed that the rot at the limb/trunk intersection was not severe, however the tree structure has been severely impacted by Eversource tree trimming. As indicated in the attached photograph the primary center leader has been removed by Eversource Electric to maintain distance from the primary electric line. Large limbs currently overhang the roadway and house posing a potential risk. In addition, due to the growth of the tree the sidewalk has been impacted (heaved) by the tree root system. There are also signs of canopy die back and thinning.

Based on a review of the comments provided at the hearing and inspection of the tree, I have made the determination as City Tree Warden to authorize the removal of the tree located at 71 South Street Extension. I have made this determination primarily based on current structure of the tree and the potential hazard associated with the lack of a primary center leader, un-symmetric branch configuration and large limbs overhanging the roadway and house.

I would like to note, that as City Tree Warden I recognize the value of trees and see City trees as a resource that should be preserved and maintained. I therefore support DPW providing a replacement tree to the property owners of 71 South Street Extension. If agreeable, said tree will be provided by the City and would be planted in the front yard of the property within ten feet of sidewalk,

In accordance State Statue 23-59 any aggrieved party (if any) may within ten days, appeal the decision to Connecticut Superior Court.

Raymond A Rogozinski
City of Bristol Tree Warden