



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

City of Bristol - Tree Hearing Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

2. Presentation of Information by the City of Bristol – Cutting of City Tree Located at Steele Road (Lot 28-250/112)

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the tree cutting adjacent to 26 Steele Road Lot 28-250-112. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain information associated with the tree in question. He stated that the city was advised the tree was cut in September. We understand there was communication with Eversource and it was indicated the tree was cut and letters were forwarded to Mr. Clavette.

3. Presentation of Information by Property Owner – Cutting of City Tree Located at Steele Road (Lot 28-250/112)

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, thanked Mr. Clavette for being here and wants to hear any information that he feels is pertinent to the issue.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that the tree was originally marked for removal due to being a hazard which is safety protocol because there should be no trees under the power lines, they would present a hazard not if but when a hazard could occur. And it has happened already when it was running across the street. We lost half our power because of the tree limbs rubbing across the wires. Eversource had to come and splice the line that was blown out. I found out that there was a meeting I was never notified of and the tree is on my property and I own to the middle of the street because I pay taxes to the middle of the street. There is a granted right of way for public across the frontage of my property that goes everywhere. When they discontinued Tulip Street coming up to Steele Road coming up from the park, the property was split and part of it went back to the property owners on that corner. That is where we pay taxes to and I own that property not the city. If the city wants to claim ownership, then they can clean the sidewalk and mow my tree line.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated the purpose of the hearing is not to go back and forth but to hear your side.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, my side is I took it out and saved the city money by taking it out because it would be a possible hazard later on if it stayed up there. It made the linemen job a lot easier to string the line.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated as a point of information, the public right of way to the back of the sidewalk, you don't own to the center of the street. You don't own to the street.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that I pay taxes, I pay taxes to the center of the street, I know that for a fact, I am 82 years old have owned property in different places.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated that is incorrect, I have to go on record that is inconsistent with the facts. If the city did want the tree back, would you contribute anything to plant the tree back.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated, no not under the power line, that would be a potential hazard in the future.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated, that potentially the city would plant the tree back and potentially refer to Corporation council and take legal action to recoup the cost from you or cover the cost ourselves. As a practical matter we wouldn't plant the tree exactly where it was, because we would have to dig up the roots, we would be ten feet one way or the other.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, asked what lot # we had down.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, Stated, lot indicated lot 28-250-112

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated 112 is my house lot, my resident lot, I own 3 lots on Steele Road, 112 is where my house is.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated, I don't see the relevance in that.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that if we went to court that technicality would throw this whole thing right out.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated, based on your testimony you took the tree down because you felt it was a hazard to your electrical lines and not open to contributing to a new tree and the city would potentially plant a tree and will be in discussion with our corporation council with respect to legal action, if any, to take against you to recoup our cost. The cost would be about \$1100.00 to plant a tree.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that he if we really want a tree, I have plenty of shoots growing on my property and can obtain. I have a small one, an evergreen.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that we would plant a 4-inch diameter tree.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that if that big a tree it will get into the power line and that's not good. I don't want to see a tree there are all. It would not only create a hazard for my power, but other people's power and possibly cause injury or damage.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden and Mr. Clavette had a discussion where a tree could be potentially replanted.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden stated that Eversource indicated they did not need the tree cut to do the work associated with the electrical line.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that the little bit they trimmed would have made it hard for them to run the line thru there and they left a lot of dead limbs that could fall on people.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden stated that is not Eversource's position. Eversource notified me and my understanding was they also told you the tree would be saved.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated that the tree was originally marked for removal so I did it. It would have been a hazard for the power lines.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Work, City Tree Warden, stated that the facts are the facts, Eversource indicated the tree did not have to be removed which is why the posting was removed.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated I had a woman yelling at me about it when I was cutting it down. You had it marked to cut down so I cut it down.



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Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated that the purpose of tonight was to hear your information and I obtained your information. Do you have a number I can call you at?

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated his phone number and stated that you have the wrong lot number posted and legally that throws it out. You want to put it in front of 112 that is in front of my house. If you want to put a tree on the tree line you can put in front of my house as there is no power line there.

4. Review of City Ordinance and Potential Penalties

5. Public Participation

No one online via zoom

6. Adjournment

Adjournment at 5:15

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, again stated about safety first and the change Eversource made to the house after he built a wall on his house property.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden stated once again he will consider the information provided and he will let him know. He stated he appreciated Mr. Clavette coming in.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated he would have come in the first time if he had known there was a meeting pertaining to the tree. The women and the selectmen from the first district taking pictures said there was a meeting.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, explained that it was brought up at a public meeting during the regular Board of Public Works meeting, but it was not a topic on the agenda. It was brought up in the public portion of the meeting. It was not scheduled to be talked about as an agenda meeting.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, stated he planted the tree years ago. He had a stake to hold it straight for a while until it took a good hold. He stated he regraded his lot due to the water draining into his basement. I own all the way down to Jacobs Street.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, asked Do you have a plot plan for someone to develop the empty lot?

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, responded, not yet, but the neighbor does want to but it

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, City Tree Warden, stated that One possibility would be to plant along that front edge and would there be a spot that will impede the development of the lot.

Mr. Clavette, 29 Steele Road, responded, well, it would impede because you would have a sewer line, water line and possibly a gas line. If someone did want to build on it. That lot at the back end had the Rockwell barns on it.

PER ORDER

Raymond A Rogozinski, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City Tree Warden