

MINUTES TO THE PUBLIC TREE HEARING

TOWN OF CHARLEMONT

October 26, 2005

Present at the meeting were: Pamela Hazlett, Charlemont Tree Warden, Ken Finch, National Grid Project Manager, Larry Hammond, National Grid Assistant Manager, Patrick Smith, Mike Myer Dierk, Laura Mele, National Grid Arborists, Bambi Miller Tom Kuklinski, and Will Sparks, Charlemont Residents.

Pam called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M. and read the public notice for the hearing, as it appeared in the West County News.

Ken explained the project, stating that the removal of trees and limbs would be conducted for the purpose of preventing outage problems. Ken further explained that he went through the streets and roads that trees were to be removed from, to speak with the owners and abutters, and received no objections.

Tom Kuklinski stated that he was interested in the butt logs of the trees that were taken down for his business. Tom was told that as long as the resident of the land agrees, he can have them. Trees taken from Town property must go through the Selectmen.

Will Sparks asked if a person could request that a tree not be removed and described two black locusts he would like to see stay, as they add much to the town. Ken said that he would take a look at them to make sure the branches weren't touching any bare wire. Will further commented that he felt the number of trees marked for removal was excessive. Ken assured Will that the arborists were careful to choose only trees that posed a hazard; they were not just randomly chosen.

Ken mentioned that money was made available to communities through a grant that allowed for replacement trees to be put in.

Bambi Miller mentioned two trees which she felt strongly about not removing. Ken stated that the trees to which Bambi referred were seriously decayed and would most certainly fail. These trees pose a threat to residents and are not sound enough to leave standing. Bambi was hoping to keep these trees, as they have been a part of the Town's history for a long time. Ken explained that he understands the sentiment of people not wanting to lose old trees, but some have a certain life span, and then decay just sets in. Ken mentioned a website for the public's information; isa.arborist.com, which gives more information.

Pam asked how big the stumps will be. Ken told her the trees will be cut as close to the ground as possible.

There being no further discussion, Pam approved the cutting plan, as submitted by the National Grid. Ken stated that he would need a permit from the Tree Warden to conduct the cutting, and will fax a copy of permits used by other towns.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene Millett,
Secretary to the Boards