

Ordinance No. Chapter 2, Sec 690, 691 & 692

Article XLVII--Northampton Tree Committee

Section 2-690. Purpose and Mission Statement

This ordinance establishes the Northampton Tree Committee whose mission is to protect, maintain and increase the health, beauty, quantity, diversity and vitality of Northampton's trees, for the benefit of its citizens and future generations.

Section 2-691. Established; Members; Term, etc.

- a. **Appointing Authority:** Committee members shall be appointed by Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.
- b. **Membership:**
 1. Four members of the public (highest priority will be to have at least one member of the committee who holds a license as MA Certified Arborist or International Certified Arborist, or similar certification)
 2. Member of the Planning Board (to be nominated by its members)
 3. Member of the Board of Public Works (to be nominated by its members)
 4. Member of the Conservation Commission (to be nominated by its members)
 5. Director of Public Works or his/her designee
- c. Chair to be elected annually in January.
- d. **Term of Appointment:** Three-year term with a limit of two consecutive terms; may serve again after one-term hiatus. The terms of the Mayoral appointees will be three (3) years except first appointees one of which will be for one (1) year, one member for two (2) years and two members for three (3) years. Planning Board, BPW and Conservation Commission members of the first Committee will likewise begin with staggered terms, decided by the Mayor.

Section 2-692. Duties

- a. Develop and recommend a Public Tree Management Plan for adoption by the City Council.
- b. Develop ordinances and guidelines governing the management of the City's public trees, including planting strategies and protocols for care and maintenance.
- c. Seek grants and conduct fundraising to assist the Committee's mission.
- d. Oversee adherence to provisions of M.G. L. 87 and Chapter 40-15C, governing shade trees on public ways and scenic roads, as well as applicable City ordinances.
- e. Review and approve requests for removal of non-hazard public trees. The NTC will assume current BPW responsibility to respond to requests for removal of trees on City property and will receive DPW's recommendations in this regard.

- f. Review and update the procedures for identifying hazard trees and determine appropriate protocols for removal.
- g. Develop and maintain a list of recommended species for planting.
- h. Provide liaison and recommendations on tree-related matters to City Council and all other city boards and commissions and to community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Historic Northampton, etc.
- i. Work with DPW to conduct an inventory of existing public trees and forests, including historic and notable trees, in order to improve understanding, management and protection of tree resources.
- j. Promote knowledge and awareness of the benefits of trees and their impact on the quality of life in Northampton.
- k. Serve as catalyst for community education and outreach related to trees and forests.
- l. Initiate program for City and gateway beautification.

Note: The above is a transcription (into a Microsoft Word format, to facilitate transmission via e-mail) of the Northampton Tree Ordinance as approved by the Ordinance Committee of the Northampton City Council on July 8, 2003. A copy of the actual Ordinance may be requested through City Hall. JM 7/23/03