

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2010, TREE PROTECTION  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Present:

Adam Kreuzer  
Laura Glaza  
Bob Marcott  
Lee Neary  
Jim Westcott

Special guest: Peggy Drescher

Public participation:

Linda Gilbert

The subcommittee discussed issues regarding protection of trees on property adjacent to construction activities including the current ordinance.

We reviewed tree protection ordinances from Oak Park, Lombard, Elmhurst, Winnetka, Wilmette, Lake Forest, St. Charles, Channahon, Algonguin and Hampshire. Most do not provide private tree protection except that some communities address nuisance issues related to diseased trees (e.g., emerald ash borer and elm disease).

Oak Park regulates removal of private trees is felling it would cause it to fall on village property. Lombard requires a permit for the removal of any private property tree but provides that, if the tree is not an ash tree, the permit will be granted; if it is an ash tree, then there are provisions for village review regarding whether the tree is infected with emerald ash borer.

Winnetka requires notification of property owners whose trees are located within 15 feet of adjoining property where construction activities are to take place. It also requires payment of a fee of \$250 per inch for removal of protected trees on private property. The money collected goes to a forestry fund for replanting and care of trees.

Channahon requires an arborist to inspect all private trees to be removed if they are protected trees. Permission is required to remove such trees or a fine is levied.

The current Glen Ellyn ordinance requires that owners file a tree protection plan which includes a tree survey that describes Protected, Significant and Unprotected trees on the property. Unprotected trees are defined as trees the owner has not designated for protection but which are otherwise defined as Protected Trees in the ordinance. The tree survey must also describe Protected or Significant trees located on adjacent lots within fifteen feet of the lot line. There is no requirement that the plan be prepared by a certified arborist. The plan must describe all protective measures to be taken during construction activities for protected trees.