

# The Incorporated Village of Muttontown Village Tree Policy

November 2020

## Objective

There are four main objectives that should be achieved through the Incorporated Village of Muttontown Village Tree Policy:

1. Develop and provide the tools necessary for defining a long-term vision for tree preservation in the Village of Muttontown in keeping with the Village Comprehensive Plan and the Village Code;
2. Establish rules and practices related to the protection, management and appropriate maintenance of the private trees within the Village;
3. Establish rules and practices for planting trees for the purpose of replacing diseased, hazardous and felled trees;
4. Disseminate information, publications and awareness of initiatives with a view to involving the whole Village – residents, municipal employees, and concerted special interest groups

## Policy

### **I. Removal of Trees**

- a. Permits must be applied for to the Building Department and issued for any resident cutting private trees over 21 inches in circumference measured at any point between the ground and a height of three feet above the ground. Exceptions apply for emergency tree removal and for normal tree trimming and cutting by a utility company to maintain utility lines or cables. Village Code § 172-3.
- b. The tree removal permit application shall be prescribed by the Board of Trustees in conformity with the Village Code.
- c. A permit will be issued only after the Building Department visits the site, examines the tree(s), and determines that the tree(s) should be removed.
- d. For any tree application with a removal totaling over 1200 inches in circumference, measured at any point between the ground and a height of three feet above the ground, the permit application will be heard and decided by the Board of Trustees. This will allow the Board to determine whether the tree is noteworthy, what the specific reason is for the tree to be removed, and who it may affect.
- e. The fee for the tree(s) removal permit application will be \$100. For each live tree, approved for removal, there will be an additional \$25 per tree. If the subject tree(s) are deemed to be dead or hazardous, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the Building Department, Tree Warden, or Code Enforcement Officer, and is approved for removal, there will be no additional fee.



## **II. Factors in Determining Tree Permit Applications**

- a. Tree size- How large the tree is measured by the size of the trunk
- b. Tree condition- is it diseased, dying or hazardous
- c. Tree location- where is the tree and what defining characteristics exist.
- d. Tree spacing- Are the trees spaced correctly for healthy growth
- e. Noteworthiness- Is the tree of a unique species, or special significance to the street or community.

## **III. Planting of Trees**

- a. For any tree which requires a permit to be obtained, the Board of Trustees requires that a replacement tree must be planted on the resident's property according to the following schedule:
  - i. with a tree removal permit issuance date of August 15<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year, a replacement tree must be planted no later than the spring planting deadline date of May 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. with a tree removal permit issuance date of February 16<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup> of the same year, a replacement tree must be planted no later than the fall planting season deadline date of October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- b. This replacement tree must be of a size and species as approved by the Building Department or the Board of Trustees.

