



**Chesterfield Public Shade Tree Hearing**  
**Monday, March 23, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**  
**Community Center - 400 Main Road**

**Public Officials Present:** J. B. Lynch, Tree Warden; Trish Colson-Montgomery and Don Willard, Select Board; and Matt Smith, Highway Superintendent;

**General Public Present:** Donald Packard, Lewis Tree Service; Jeff Slesinski, 165 South St.; Ricki Chick, Ireland St.; Dee Cinner, 270 Ireland St.; Judy Lyons, 12 Ireland St. Ext.; Lynn Hicks, 634 Main Rd.; Nanette Clark, 16 Pynchon Rd.; Sarah Hamilton and Greg Meister, 237 Ireland St.; Justin West, 214 Bryant St.; Tim McElroy, 178 Bryant St.; Fred Drake, 196 Bryant St.; Jim McSweeney, 196 Pynchon Rd.; Tom and Kam Osborne, 15 Don Emerson Rd.; Nancy Rich, 72 South St.; Doc LeDuc, 412 Main Rd.; Susan Fuller and Carl Cignoni, 9 Bryant St.; Margaret Allard, 11 Damon Pond Rd.; David Marshall, 18 East St.; Gigi Kaeser, Ireland St.; Jennifer Abromowitz, 202 Sugar Hill Rd.

**Recorder of Minutes:** Brenda Lessard

J. B. Lynch opened the Public Hearing at 2:30 p.m. He stated that the intent of trimming and removing the trees were for power line maintainance for Eversource. Eversource would like all material trimmed or removed within 15 feet of the wires. Trees slated for removal have been marked along South St., North Rd., Damon Pond Rd., and Willcutt Rd.

Jim McSweeney reported that he and Dee Cinner had walked the route to look at the trees marked for removal and that 95% of them were relatively healthy. Mr. McSweeney noted that he is an arborist. He has no issue in removing the Hemlocks and the Ash trees but the Oaks and Sugar Maples look relatively healthy.

There was a discussion of installing underground wires. That suggestion would be very costly to the Town.

Nan Clark stated that the removal of the trees would be a detriment to the environment. She is upset with the tree removal process. She also noted that birds are nesting in the spring in the trees. She also opined that tree removal did not help reduce power outages.

There was a discussion of the tree cutting that went on several years ago for the Broadband project. Most in attendance wanted to know why trimming and removal needed to happen again so soon. Several opined that the trees should be pruned more often and that would prevent the trees from growing into the wires or for the tree to become unhealthy.

Matt Smith reported that a lot of the trees marked along Damon Pond Road are slated for removal for the upcoming Damon Pond/North Road project.

Nancy Rich reported that she had walked South Street and North Road and saw 60 trees marked for removal. She noted that very few were leaning toward the wires.

J.B. Lynch told those in attendance that if they have a certain tree or trees they are concerned about, they should contact him or Don Packard from Lewis Tree Service.

Judy Lyons stated that trees over 20” in diameter and considered to be straight, should only be trimmed.

Nancy Rich opined that several trees in front of 31 North Road that are marked for removal are too short to affect the wires.

Several people stated they would like the trees to be better marked to show which ones will be removed and which ones will be trimmed, especially along North Road.

Several people noted they were upset that no representative from Eversource was in attendance to answer questions they had.

Doc LeDuc noted that several trees in front of his home, that had previously been removed by Eversource, had the stumps left. He asked who will remove all the stumps this time? Don Packard from Lewis Tree Service stated that if a homeowner requested to keep the wood, the cut tree would be left. He has a log truck coming to pick up the trees that are cut. Brush will be chipped and the mulch will be at the highway garage. As far as the stumps, the trees will be cut as low to the ground as they can.

Most in attendance would like to have the trees remarked and someone from Eversource to answer questions. The public shade tree hearing was continued to April 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. with a walk along North Road to look at the trees marked for removal. The hearing will continue immediately after the walk (approximately 4:00 p.m.) at the Community Center parking lot. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Packard will mark trees along North Road to show which trees will be removed and which will be trimmed. If they have no marking, those trees will remain.