

## Public Shade Tree Law

In Massachusetts, General Law, Chapter 87 governs public shade trees. It outlines the power of the Tree Warden (for Winchester, this is the DPW Director), procedures for removing a street tree, procedures for planting street trees, and penalties for violating provisions of the law.

- All trees within the public way are defined as public shade trees.
- The Tree Warden is responsible for the care, control, protection and maintenance of all public shade trees, except those within a state highway, and shall enforce all the provisions of law for the preservation of such trees.
- No other person may plant, trim, cut or remove a public shade tree without permission of the Tree Warden.
- No person, including the Tree Warden, may cut, trim or remove any tree, greater than one and one half inches in diameter, without a public hearing.



## Peter Van Aken Street Tree Fund

The Peter Van Aken Permanent Street Tree Fund was created in 2009 in recognition of his many contributions to the Town, including his role in recreating a Street Tree Program.

The Fund is maintained through private donations and supplements the Town's annual appropriations for planting, care and maintenance of Winchester's street trees.

Contributions may be made to the Town of Winchester (Peter Van Aken Permanent Tree Fund) and sent to the Town Manager's Office at the address below.

### Town Contacts:

Street Tree Maintenance Requests, to request a Street Tree:

Department of Public Works  
15 Lake Street  
781-721-7100

Donations to the Peter Van Aken Permanent Street Tree Fund:

Town Manager's Office  
Town Hall, 71 Mount Vernon Street  
781-721-7133

Tree Committee information:

Street Tree Committee  
c/o Town Planner  
Town Hall, 71 Mount Vernon Street  
781-721-7162



**2012**

**Town of Winchester  
Tree Program**

## Why Plant Trees?

- Trees fight global warming by cooling your house, driveway and family (and lowering your cooling bill!)
- Trees cool the community by fighting the heat island effect—they reduce high temperatures created by pavement, cars and buildings.
- Trees clean the air by making oxygen and absorbing pollutants.
- Trees help prevent flooding by keeping rain out of storm drain systems.
- Trees clean the water through their root systems.
- Trees help prevent erosion.
- Trees protect wildlife.
- Trees can encourage recreational activities, such as walking.
- Trees can give you privacy.
- Trees increase value to properties.



## Winchester a “Tree City USA”

The Town of Winchester has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life through its Street Tree Program.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

## Winchester Street Tree Committee

The Board of Selectmen has established a Permanent Street Tree Committee (PSTC) to assist in the planning, funding and implementation of street tree planting and maintenance.

The Committee serves as an advisory committee that advocates for street trees in the Town, provides policy recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Capital Planning Committee, and assists in the annual determination of funding from the Peter Van Aken Permanent Street Tree Fund.

## Winchester Street Tree Program



The Town has an annual program to plant and maintain its street trees. Each year, the Town’s Street Tree Committee, working in concert with the Department of Public Works (DPW) selects several streets to receive new street trees and replace diseased or dead trees. Trees are planted in the late spring and early fall, when it is best to plant trees.

This year the PSTC tried an experiment-- planting bare root trees. Forty-five bare root (not having a root ball with burlap around it) were planted by a four-person DPW crew in two days. Bare root trees are smaller, less expensive trees to buy and easier to plant since a front loader and other heavy equipment are not required for the installation. The PSTC will assess the results of this planting for health, damage and survival over the next several years.