

**From:** Hopedale Tree Warden <treewarden@hopedale-ma.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 8:03 PM

**To:** Hopedale Planning Board <PlanningBoard@hopedale-ma.gov>

**Cc:** Steve Chaplin <schaplin@schaplinlaw.com>

**Subject:** Regarding Subdivision Regulation Section IV Design Standards G. Trees and Overdale Parkway Waiver Request

To the Planning Board,

In recent review of the Overdale Parkway project, I was made aware of Section G. Trees of the Design Standards for Subdivisions. This standard requires the planting of Norway Maples. As many of these trees become the responsibility of the Town and the Tree Warden, it is my duty to inform you that Norway Maples are invasive species in the State of Massachusetts, and are listed on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List. It is my recommendation that the Planning Board consider updating this requirement to trees native to Massachusetts, excluding hybrids made with nonnative species or varieties.

As the Overdale Parkway waiver request from the Trees requirement also provides for the planting of at least Two Norway Maples, I would respectfully request the Planning Board consider requiring a different related species, such as Red Maple or Sugar Maple.

Further, if this road is to be accepted by the Town and granted a Right of Way, the species chosen should be of a nature to not interfere with overhead powerlines, unless said powerlines were installed underground, which is preferable for continued maintenance of street trees. Trees planted on the same side of the road as powerlines, or under connecting house wires should be of a species that does not exceed 20 feet in height, of which most Maples are not.

Regarding the waiver request itself from planting one tree every hundred feet along both sides of the road, in which the applicant has proposed "at least two" trees will be planted, I highly recommend that another compromise is met if this waiver is granted. For the length of the road amounting to approximately 800 feet, two trees is a significant reduction from the required sixteen for this proposal. Without these trees being planted, the cost of planting the trees will be on the town, and the planting of the trees after the property has already been stabilized will be at higher risk for the trees being planted. While it may be advisable to plant less trees on whichever side of the road has powerlines, I do not see a reason provided as to why the required number of trees could not be planted on the other side of the road. In my experience, developments that clear large properties without planting trees or shrubs of some kind, suffer greater erosion and flooding issues, neither of which are of benefit to the town. As there have been historic reports of flooding issues in this area, it is preferable for more than two trees for this stretch of road to be planted.

---

I am happy to review any specific species proposals for this project, or assist in updating the requirements regarding trees.

Thank you,  
Becca Solomon  
Hopedale Tree Warden  
treewarden@hopedale-ma.gov