

November 30, 2004

## Street Tree Policy Bedford Planning Board

This Street Tree Policy shall apply to subdivision applications, special permit applications and site plan reviews before the Planning Board. Bedford residents strongly favor creating and retaining a tree canopy, as mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this street tree policy is to create a tree canopy and a pleasant streetscape to further enhance the small town character of Bedford, promote traffic calming, provide shade for pedestrians and vehicles and improve the visual quality of town streets.

The Planning Board shall determine street tree locations and spacing in order to meet the intent of this policy. The Board shall consider locating trees on private property abutting the street right of way as well as in the right of way in order to determine the best location on a case by case basis.

The species of trees to be planted on a street shall be determined by the Planning Board and where possible a variety of native species shall be used to prevent major loss of street trees from future disease.

If site conditions limit the location of the required number of trees adjacent to the street then compensatory trees shall be planted at other appropriate locations on the site as directed by the Planning Board. If in the Planning Board's opinion appropriate locations for these compensatory trees cannot be found on site, then a contribution from the developer to the DPW's tree fund shall be made to cover the cost to purchase and install the same number of trees elsewhere.

Whenever possible, suitable existing trees shall be preserved as street trees. These trees shall be designated on the site plan and appropriate measures shall be taken to preserve these trees as outlined in the attached "Tree Protection from Construction Damage".

In order to emphasize the importance of providing locations on the site for street trees the proposed plan shall show the tentative location for street trees. The location of driveways, utility easements and other site features shall take into consideration the need to provide appropriate locations to plant street trees.

If the Planning Board determines that the best location for street trees is in the public right of way, then the design of the street, sidewalks and utilities shall be adjusted to create an appropriate planting area for trees, without sacrificing safety or critical design standards.

