

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN
PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE TREE WARDEN
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013**

**Mildred A. Wakeley Community and Recreation Center
7 Linsley Street
Room # 2**

At approximately 7:00 PM the Meeting was called to order by Victor Palma, Tree Warden for the Town of North Haven. Mr. Palma was joined by Acting Clerk, Valerie Goodkin and Court Reporter, MaryLee Rydzewski.

The Clerk then read the Agenda Item as follows: Public Hearing on appeal by David Gagnon of 283 Quinnipiac Avenue, North Haven of the Public Notice of Tree Removal posted by the Tree Warden on an Oak Tree located at 282 Quinnipiac Avenue in North Haven (Volunteer Fire Station).

Mr. Palma opened the Public Hearing and requested the Clerk to mark four (4) Exhibits into the record: (1) a copy of the Public Notice of Tree Removal which he posted on the oak tree at issue; (2) a copy of Mr. David Gagnon's correspondence appealing the Public Notice of Tree Removal; (3) a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing; and (4) Mr. Palma's May 31, 2013 correspondence to Mr. Gagnon notifying him of the details of tonight's Public Hearing.

Mr. Palma then opened the matter to Mr. Gagnon to present his appeal. Mr. David Gagnon, 283 Quinnipiac Avenue, noted that he feels it is a shame to take down a healthy tree. The tree is 62 inches in diameter indicating that it is approximately 300 years old. He feels it would be irresponsible to take the tree down and feels the design of the fire station can be altered to accommodate the retention of the tree.

Mr. Palma then asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak in opposition to the removal of the oak tree at issue. There being none, Mr. Palma asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of the removal of the oak tree in issue?

Mr. Vincent Landisio, Fire Chief, Town of North Haven, stated that he supports the removal of the tree. Although it has not been an easy decision, and he respects Mr. Gagnon's concern for preserving the tree, there is much more that goes into the design of the fire station. The committee felt that a one level station would be more functional than multiple stories, and although it may look like a large site, it is challenging to accommodate the new station. There is a ball field to the rear and setbacks to the front, and the storage barn to the south. He also feels that the root structure may become compromised if they left the tree and built around it. He also stated that it becomes a

safety issue because the tree presents a sight line issue when the fire apparatus are pulling out of the fire station. He also noted that he has heard from other neighbors that they support the removal of the tree due to the excessive amount of leaves that the tree produces in the fall. Mr. Landisio continued with several other statements supporting the removal of the tree.

Mr. Palma asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak. Mr. Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Fire Commissioner, Mansfield Road, stated that he is in favor of removing the tree. He stated this was not something the Fire Commission took lightly. Taking the historical value of tree into consideration, he believes for the best interest of the community and the progression of the completion of the station renovations, he would like to see the Warden rule in favor of removing the tree. He respects the opinions of those who would like to see it preserved, but feels it would be a difficult task at best to rework the architectural plans and feels it is important to continue forward with the renovation project to make important and necessary improvements to the infrastructure of the fire station.

Mr. Palma asked if there were any additional comments. Mr. Paul Januszewski, North Haven Firefighter, stated that he is familiar with the tree and the fire station. As a resident of the Montowese area he is concerned with the residents and their safety. He also stated that being a firefighter and having pulled out of that station in a fire truck he can testify that the tree presents a sight line problem.

At the conclusion of Mr. Januszewski's statement Mr. Palma asked for additional comments. Mr. Gagnon commented that he respects the need for the renovations to the fire station, and supports them. He noted that in his profession as a civil engineer, working with engineers and architects daily, he finds it hard to believe that we can't take another look at the site plan and rework them to accommodate the tree. He does not see it as that difficult of a task.

Mr. Palma asked for any further comments from the public?

Seeing none, and hearing none Mr. Palma closed the Public Hearing. He stated that he will issue his decision on Mr. Gagnon's appeal within three (3) days.

Mr. Palma thanked the attendees and adjourned the hearing at 7:15 pm.

**TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN
TREE WARDEN
NOTICE OF DECISION**

**TO RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN AND OTHER
INTERESTED PARTIES:**

A Public Hearing was held before the Tree Warden of the Town of North Haven on Monday, June 17, 2013 on an appeal of the Public Notice of Tree Removal posted by the Tree Warden on an Oak Tree located at 282 Quinnipiac Avenue in North Haven (Volunteer Fire Station). Upon consideration of the comments received at the Public Hearing, the Tree Warden has decided to grant the appeal. The Oak Tree will not be removed.

VICTOR PALMA, NORTH HAVEN TREE WARDEN

A COPY OF THIS NOTICE IS ON FILE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

RECEIVED AND FILED
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
NORTH HAVEN, CONN.

JUN 20 2013

J. Tracy G. [Signature]
TOWN CLERK