

Town of Weston
Tree Warden Decision
Norfield Oak – November 11, 2016

After much thought and deliberation on the input provided to me by Weston town officials, Connecticut licensed arborists and concerned, informed citizens, as well as weighing safety, aesthetics and historic precedent in my best efforts to administer my duties as tree warden for the care and maintenance of all municipal trees and bushes in Town, I have determined that the red oak (*Quercus Rubra*) located at the corner of Norfield Road and Norfield Farm Lane should remain subject to several risk mitigation procedures occurring in the next 90 days.

The first procedure is the entire removal of the damaged leader on the southeast corner of the tree which is currently hindering large vehicle traffic.

The second procedure will reduce the load on the leader on the southwest corner of the tree through cabling, where appropriate, and the removal of both dead and live branches where necessary to stop the widening of the already existing 8” separation of the leader from the other remaining leaders.

The third procedure is a thorough inspection of the tree canopy to detect defects and eliminate dead wood while reducing load to attempt to mitigate potential failure. A thorough inspection of current cabling should be done with the replacement of older cables where appropriate. All work will be done by Connecticut licensed arborist. The tree and its condition will be monitored and visually inspected at least annually and after major storms to determine if any additional remedial action is necessary.

Lastly, the offer by the Selectman to reinstitute and maintain all risk mitigation measures initiated in the planning and zoning document and confirmed by the Selectman on January 26, 1999 will be accepted. These measures, once accomplished, would assist in mitigating line of sight concerns while also forewarning travelers of the tree’s presence.

By instituting all of the above described steps, I believe I will have addressed my current safety concerns while allowing an important part of our Town’s heritage to be preserved.

Thank you to all our Selectmen and other town officials, as well as our concerned citizens, for their courteous, cogent and insightful commentary that has allowed me to come to this decision.

Sincerely,

William A. Lomas
Tree Warden
Town of Weston