

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

To: Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village Manager

From: Conservation Advisory Council

Re: Tree Code Amendments

Date: February 13, 2019

The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) supports the proposed amendments to the Tree code as submitted in the Board of Trustee packet dated February 13, 2019. The CAC believes the proposed amendments provide important updates to the Village Tree Code to help maintain Scarsdale's beautiful tree canopy for current and future Scarsdale residents. The proposed updates provide a thoughtful solution to address large scale tree removals (commonly referred to as "clear cutting") while maintaining property rights and flexibility for homeowners who either need to or want to remove trees on their property.

Scarsdale's "Village in a Park" scenic setting is comprised of individual trees on each property in the community. Each individual tree contributes to the beauty of Scarsdale and is a cherished community resource. It is important we ensure this resource is maintained. In addition to being part of the landscape of the community, trees provide significant and important social and environmental benefits.

The CAC has been working with the Board of Trustees, village staff, other boards and councils and the community over several years to find a reasonable way to ensure the community's tree canopy is maintained. Significant research was done, numerous proposals were considered, and many meetings were held to solicit community feedback. A complete archive of reports and presentations is available on the CAC page of scarsdale.com. The CAC believes the proposal being presented tonight represents a thoughtful and reasonable update to the Tree code.

The Conservation Advisory Council would like to thank the current and past Board of Trustees, Village Staff, Friends of Scarsdale Parks, former CAC members and other organizations for their work on this issue. We would also like to thank the many residents who have provided feedback over the years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scarsdale Conservation Advisory Council

February 13, 2019