

From: Marc Samwick <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Subject: Re: Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc.: 2019 Recommendations on the Conservation of Scarsdale's Tree Canopy
Date: January 2, 2020 at 2:04:29 PM EST
To: Madelaine Eppenstein <meppenstein@eppenstein.com>
Cc: Steve Pappalardo <spappalardo@scarsdale.com>, Robert Cole <rcole@scarsdale.com>, Jeff Coleman <jcoleman@scarsdale.com>, "Christine Sciandra (csciandra@scarsdale.com)" <csciandra@scarsdale.com>

Hi Madelaine,

Thank you for your letter. I will forward the letter to the BOT.

The Board shares your interest in the ROW planting program and in enhancing communication of the program to increase resident participation.

Thank you for all that you and the FOSP do to keep Scarsdale a "village in a park". The Village is better place as a result of the work you do.

Wishing you a great 2020!

Best regards,

Marc

On Dec 31, 2019, at 10:00 PM, Madelaine Eppenstein <meppenstein@eppenstein.com> wrote:

CAUTION: External sender.

Dear Mayor Samwick,
Attached is a letter from Friends of the Scarsdale Parks for consideration by the Village Board and Messrs. Pappalardo, Cole and Coleman.
Warm regards and best wishes for the New Year to all.
Sincerely,
Madelaine Eppenstein, Director
Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc.
914.262.6656

<FOSP 2019 Recommendations on the Conservation of Scarsdale's Tree Canopy 2019-12-31.docx>

Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc.
PO Box 53, Scarsdale NY 10583

December 31, 2019, via email

RE: FOSP 2019 Recommendations on the Conservation of Scarsdale's Tree Canopy

Dear Mayor Samwick and Trustees,

The Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc. has been dedicated since its incorporation in 1957 to the conservation of Scarsdale's parkland and open space under our corporate purposes. We are privileged to be able to continue that tradition by collaborating with you and the Village on programs supporting that goal.

The purpose of this letter is to express our concern about the reduced demand by residents for planting trees in the right of way provided by the Department of Public Work's street tree program. At the same time, we have become aware anecdotally of incidents of tree removals on private and public property, apparently without required permits, based on an assumption by some residents that this is permissible because "everyone does it." This is of concern also.

From time to time this year we have mentioned at Village Board meetings our recommendation for more trees to be planted in the right of way and in the parks wherever feasible. Meanwhile, we have purchased and supervised the planting of dozens of trees at the Harwood Park wetland restoration site, sponsored the Cornell hybrid oak planting at George Field Park, made recommendations to the Village about planting trees in the parks, in open public spaces, and at Weinberg Nature Center, and sent our yearly inventory of FOSP's 2019 tree conservation activity to the Village Manager's office today.

Now that the 2020-2021 budget is under consideration, FOSP wishes to renew our recommendation for a more proactive ROW tree replacement policy and outreach to residents whose street trees have been removed. We also recommend that the Village expand the program by affirmatively identifying locations where space is available for planting trees in the public right of way and in the parks. Among the many benefits of maintaining Scarsdale's tree canopy is helping our ecosystems mitigate the increasing environmental stresses of climate change. Implementing this program would potentially make a significant contribution to counteract the effects of deforestation on private residential property, lower ambient temperatures, and offset greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Kindly consider expanding the ROW tree program in the 2020-2021 Village budget allocations.

Respectfully submitted by the following members of the Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc. Board of Directors:

Betsy Bush
Kay Eisenman
Madelaine Eppenstein
Bart Hamlin
Amy Laartz
Cynthia Roberts
Todd Wolleman

Cc via email: Stephen M. Pappalardo, Village Manager
Robert Cole, Deputy Village Manager
Jeff Coleman, Superintendent of Public Works