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May 5, 2023

Andrew LaBarbera, Councilman
Borough of Fair Haven
748 River Road
Fair Haven, NJ 07704

**Re: Department of Public Works
Review of Existing Trees and Recommendations
Location: 1 Allen Street, Fair Haven**

Dear Mr. LaBarbera:

As requested, our office performed a site visit on April 7, 2023, to review the existing trees surrounding the Department of Public Works property to assess existing tree health and condition for future improvements and upgrades to the property. The information below provides further details.

Trees along Allen Street

Four (4) Norway Spruce trees line the street between the property fence and the curb line of Allen Street. This is an invasive species prone to girdling roots, trunk decay, verticillium wilt (bacterial infection), and overall, dieback. These four (4) trees are in poor condition and exhibit many of these signs, as is typical of the species and one of many reasons why it is no longer utilized as in previous decades. While these trees are alive, they are in declining condition and will continue in this direction. Since upgrades are proposed for this area, it is recommended to remove and replant with higher quality species beneficial for area wildlife as well as for aesthetics.

Further down the street, the fenced area ends and a wooded lot separates the Public Works yard from the adjoining residential property. It appears this lot had previously been cleared due to the species that has filled in this area, consisting of almost all Black Cherry and Norway Maple trees. English Ivy, another invasive species, has also established along the edges of the wooded property, especially along the back-fence line, climbing into the trees' canopies.

Trees along 3rd Street

Previously, a berm was installed along the fence to help buffer views on this side of the property. White pine trees were planted on the berm, many are in poor condition and have poor form (multiple leaders). In front of the berm, within the open lawn area, are younger shade trees in fair condition, planted parallel with the street and berm. However, due to the close proximity of these shade trees and the planted berm, it has caused the pine trees to lean into the fenced yard, angling towards the sun and away from the shade the trees cast. There are no street trees along 3rd Street.

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Trees along Maple Street

The existing buffer of trees along this side of the property are mostly all ingrowth, both native and invasive species, with White pine and Leyland cypress trees installed to fill in open voids.

There are three (3) Black Locust trees near the corner with 3rd Street that should be removed due to their hazardous condition, missing canopy and decay throughout the trunk. Nearby, a group of young Norway Maple trees are in fair to poor condition with decay and dieback in the canopy and are being strangled by English Ivy. This grouping is located across from House #107. These invasive trees should be removed and replanted with native species. Ivy should be removed and the area should be monitored to prevent the vine from taking hold.

Continuing down Maple Street, there is a hazardous Black Locust that should be removed as well as two (2) large Hickory trees both with dieback and decay in the canopy and base of the trees. It appears the Hickory trees are beginning to decline and should be considered for removal to prevent property damage prior to their failure.

Recommendations

As previously mentioned, English Ivy should be removed from the canopies of any trees to remain. Within the wooded lot, minimal disturbance is recommended to prevent another unwanted species from colonizing the space. If a passive walking path is desired, a thick layer of arborist wood chips can be used for delineating a pathway.

Native evergreen trees, such as American Holly and Eastern Red Cedar, should be added to the Maple Street buffer where gaps exist. Hardwood species, such as Red Maple, Swamp White Oak and Eastern Redbud can be field located to soften views. These native species will also provide shelter and food for wildlife.

The visual buffer desired for Allen Street should include replacing the shade trees. Consider Hackberry or Honeylocust, neither has leaves as large as the existing Norway maple trees, which should help in reducing leaf litter. To aid in buffering views with limited planting area, an upright Juniper tree, such as Hetzi Juniper or Wichita Blue Juniper, can be planted along the future fenced yard. These evergreen trees will not grow nearly as wide or tall as the typical pine and spruce buffer trees. Native and hardy shrubs along with ornamental grasses will help to break up the monotonous evergreen 'wall'. Bayberry, Arrowwood Viburnum, Beautyberry, Winterberry,



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Switchgrass and Indiangrass are all species to consider for the Allen Street screening, which will provide four-season interest to enhance views of the space.

The existing berm on 3rd street should remain; however, many of the pines should be removed and replaced, to invest in the long term screening of this area. As previously mentioned above, a variety of plant materials can be utilized on the berm, to include both evergreen and deciduous trees.

Also, our office noted a young ash tree in the line of shade trees planted in front of the berm, near the corner with 3rd Street and Allen Street. The Borough might consider removing this tree during the project, due to the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Unfortunately, EAB quickly kills its host in a matter of a few years.

If the budget allows, shade trees along 3rd street would further enhance the Public Works property. The open lawn allows for sufficient space to establish shade trees without conflicting with overhead utility wires.

If requested, our office will review and provide further recommendations when landscape plans are designed.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

CME Associates

Shari M. Spero, LTE #465
Licensed Tree Expert

SMS
Enclosures

cc: Theresa S. Casagrande, Administrator



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Typical condition of Norway maple trees on Allen Street. Decay and decline will continue. Trees to be replaced.



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English Ivy outcompeting the trees



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Pocket of Norway Maple trees covered in English Ivy, with decay and dieback. To be removed and replaced.



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Black locust to be removed with English Ivy at the base.
Hickory trees directly behind the parked gray car with decay.