



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840**  
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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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Saturday February 13, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. – Remembrance Park / Town Hall Conference Room

*Members Present:* Vaughan Morgan, John Penacho, John McDevitt

*Staff:* Karen Anderson – Town Administrator, Paul Hayden - Property Maintenance Supervisor

*Also Present:* Ian Farley – Eversource Arborist

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Chair Morgan opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 10:30 a.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present. The Board agreed to look at each tree in Remembrance Park proposed to be removed, open the site walk up to public comments at the conclusion and then recess back to the Town Office to discuss the trees and any comments received from the public.

Mr. Farley started at the far end of the park and pointed out that the first two ash trees were encroaching in the wires and were the wrong trees for that location. The line being cleared is the main Phase 3 line for the system and the intent is to clear the line to help prevent service interruptions. There is a species of maple tree proposed to be removed. Mr. Farley explained that it is a species no longer allowed to be sold in the U.S. due to its invasive characteristics; there are also signs that the tree is not doing well as bark is split on many branches and there is a large dead limb that should be removed regardless of the outcome of this meeting. There was extensive discussion on the ability to trim rather than remove the maple tree. Three additional trees located at the other end of the park were damaged and/or diseased as well as being located under and in the wires. There are a total of 7 trees being considered for removal.

Mr. Morgan stated that the Board's decisions will be based on safety as the top priority, safety to the first responders that have to deal with a downed wire, safety to the EverSource workers and safety to our residents. Mr. McDevitt asked a series of questions about the impact each tree has on the wires, the relative health of the trees, the EverSource guidelines used to remove or trim a tree and the extent of Town involvement in choosing replacement trees and their location within the park.

Several residents were present and asked about the ability to continue trimming the trees on a regular basis rather than removing them. Concerns were raised about the shade that was provided by the trees. Residents expressed thoughts about trees being removed on Newington Road, Post Road and Portsmouth Avenue on private property and that the property owners may not have understood that they were not required to provide the permission to have the trees removed or the overall impact of the tree removal. The Board reminded the public that trees on private property are not under its jurisdiction. Mr. Rick Simpson told the Board that the trees under the wires should be removed for safety reasons, but that it was important to have written confirmation from EverSource about the replanting.

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

At 1:00 p.m. the Board recessed to the Town Office with Mr. Farley to review the selected trees. After a thorough review of the current tree removal plan and issues of public safety, historical significance and aesthetic appearance, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to proceed with the project as originally proposed. Mr. Farley confirmed that he will discuss the site walk with his supervisors and send a document to the Town regarding a replanting plan at the park as well as EverSource sponsoring an Arbor Day event for residents.

The Board agreed that the Conservation Commission should play an active role in the selection of the tree species and replanting in the spring.

**MOTION:** *J. McDevitt moved to authorize the removal of the 7 marked trees in Remembrance Park that are under the power lines and/or diseased. No tree to be removed until replanting agreement is in place. Second – J. Penacho; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

ADJOURNMENT
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**MOTION:** *J. Penacho moved to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. Second – J. McDevitt; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

Respectfully Submitted – Karen Anderson, Town Administrator

Approved: