

David VanLuven
Town Supervisor

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TO: David VanLuven, Supervisor
Town Board Members

FROM: Nate Owens, AICP

RE: Presentation of the Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan

DATE: November 20, 2020

The last time this project was before the Town Board was March 2020, where the Town Board heard a presentation of the results of the street tree inventory (see attached presentation). Since March, the focus of Staff, the consultant, and the [Street Tree Advisory Committee](#) has been on preparing and revising the Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan based upon the results of the street tree inventory conducted in the September/October 2019. The inventory resulted in a GIS database of all captured sites that will allow the Town to implement the Plan, and produce maps to understand tree locations and conditions. For example, maps were produced to show the locations of maple, ash, and oak trees; trees with defects; trees recommended for inspection and/or monitoring; large diameter trees; and trees with overhead utility conflicts. Davey Resource Group (DRG) will present on the management plan at the November 24, 2020 meeting. The attached Executive Summary provides a good overview of the management plan.

The full Draft Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan with executive summary was posted to the Town website on October 8 and staff posted a featured news bulletin soliciting questions and comments on the plan through October 21, an approximately two week period. Staff and DRG held a lunchtime forum on October 14 to present the draft plan and gather community feedback. Attendees included one Town Board member, members of the Street Tree Advisory Committee, one resident, and a staff member from the NYSDEC Urban Forestry Grant Program. Staff and DRG revised the draft plan and present a final draft plan for the Board's consideration.

The management plan section includes a 5-year work schedule and recommended budget; however, we are by no means suggesting we go that route or recommend allocating annual funds in our current fiscal circumstances. These budgetary figures represent the real cost of running a street tree management program (assuming private contractor's rates) and highlight the value of Town staff's work. The 5-year timeframe is a standard timeframe for a management plan and it coincides with the routine pruning cycle time period. Highway Department staff can make progress on maintenance of street trees over several years. Perhaps in time the Board will want to allocate some additional resources for Town staff to further implement plan recommendations.

Next Steps

- Town Board action on the attached resolution, accepting the Street Tree Inventory Analysis and Management Plan as a guidance document

- NYSDEC approval of the final plan by December 16, 2020

Please contact me at x1155 if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachments

Cc: R. Leslie, R. Nagengast