



Town of Williamsburg

Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION SERVICES
212 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060



TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

All those applying for a building or driveway permit for which the plan includes cutting, removing, or pruning trees along the road must obtain permission from the Tree Warden in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws. The public is advised to incorporate the permit process into their timetable.

Which Trees Are Public Trees?

- All trees within the “public way” are Public Shade Trees under the care and control of the Williamsburg Tree Warden / Tree Committee.
- The public way is the public land including and along side roads. For most roads, this is an area 50’ 6” wide, but the road is not necessarily in the center.
- Some examples of Public Trees include:
 - Any tree located between the road and a property marker,
 - Trees located between the edge of the road and a stone wall along the road,
 - If any part of the tree is within the public way, it is a public tree,
 - If in doubt, please contact the Tree Warden / Tree Committee.

What Laws Govern Public Trees?

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 states:

- No person may plant, trim, cut or remove a public shade tree without permission of the Tree Warden.
- No person, including the Tree Warden, may remove any tree, greater than one and one half inches in diameter, **without a public hearing**.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 15(c) states:

- On a **scenic road**; any repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work done with respect thereto shall not involve or include the cutting or removal of trees, or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls, or portions thereof, except with prior written consent of the Tree Warden and Planning Board.
- All roads in Williamsburg except Route 9 and Route 143 are designated as **scenic roads**.

Sincerely,

Williamsburg Tree Warden / Tree Committee

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