



2020 CPA Project Funding Restoration of Historic Streetscapes

The Acton Tree Warden was awarded 2020 Community Preservation funds (CPA funds) for the restoration of street trees within Historic Districts. The proposed project would result in the planting of approximately 25 trees in the various Historic Districts. These trees shall be planted within designated Local Historic Districts on publicly owned land, street rights of way, or, where no public space is available, on adjacent private properties as provided by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87.

SITE CONTROL

As noted above, the majority of the trees will be planted on public land. However, Massachusetts law does permit the expenditure of public funds to plant trees up to twenty (20) feet back from the edge of the public way, with landowner permission. The new trees will be Public Shade Trees, as legally defined, and are therefore given a degree of protection from removal, unless they are deemed to be hazardous by the Tree Warden.

No trees shall be planted in locations where they would interfere with future sidewalks.

PROJECT SCOPE

The type of tree shall be selected by the Tree Warden. The decision will be made based on several factors such as soil type, proximity to road salt, overhead wires, etc. and the need for diversity of plantings to avoid tree cover loss due to diseases and insects. In the recent past, considerable tree death was caused by Chestnut Blight, Dutch Elm Disease, and Gypsy Moth, and we are now threatened by Asian Longhorned Beetle. The previous historic streetscape project was well received and resulted in 24 new trees planted; 13 in the West Acton District, 9 in the Acton Center District, and 2 in the South Acton District.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Ryan Hunt, Acton Tree Warden, at (978) 929-7743 or by email (treewarden@actonma.gov)

REFERENCES

Designated Local Historic District maps can be found on the Acton Historic District Commission web page (<https://www.acton-ma.gov/101/Historic-District-Commission>)

Acton Town Center Historic District

(<https://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/364/Acton-Center-Historic-District-map?bidId=>)

South Acton Historic District

(<https://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/363/South-Acton-Historic-District-Map?bidId=>)

West Acton Historic District

(<https://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/362/West-Acton-Historic-District-Map?bidId=>)