

Memo

May 23, 2014

From: Stacy Delarede, Building Inspector

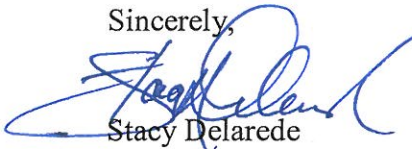
To: Susan Zimet, Supervisor and Members of the Town Board

CC: Planning Board
Alpenaster, Corp.
Bookkeeper, TofNP

Dear Susan;

Attached please find correspondence from Al Wegener, Landscape Consultant for the Town. Based upon Mr. Wegener's inspection of the planting of the Street Trees within the Black Creek Crossing Development (aka Evergreen Lane), he is recommending that the Town retain the Performance Funds currently held, for a period of Two (2) years in lieu of the One (1) year requirement as set by the Planning Board pursuant to §121-16 of the Subdivision regulations. This recommendation is to ensure that should the trees not survive and the developer fail to replace them, the Town will have the funds to do so.

Sincerely,



Stacy Delarede
Building Inspector

5-20-14

To: Ms. Stacy Delarede, Building Inspector

Fr: Al Wegener, Landscape Consultant

Re: Street Trees for Black Creek Crossing Subdivision

The road length of 790' calls for 32 trees. Inspection of the existing trees along the roadway last fall provided for a credit of eight trees, and an additional credit of three trees which would otherwise be in the conservation easement area, leaving 21 street trees to be planted.

Anthony Aebi, Green Hills Contracting, had indicated that five additional trees would be planted in the stormwater easement area. These trees were delivered to the site but could not be planted in this area and still allow the space required by Chris Marx for the town to do the maintenance for the pond. The trees were planted elsewhere on the site.

Serving as street trees on the site, 25 trees have been planted, with calipers within the 2"-3" range, species as follows:

6 Swamp White Oaks (*Quercus bicolor*) These have a wider climate tolerance than red oaks and are not where the salt-resistance of the reds is needed.

1 Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) to keep the others on this lot company.

4 Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) to provide year-round presence at cul-de-sac

14 Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* "Village Green") an elm-type tree available last fall in the region.

For healthy growth, trees should be planted so that the place (trunk flare) where the roots begin to spread out from the trunk is at or even several inches above the level of the surrounding ground. The trees here were planted in winter conditions, contrary to my specifications, and when this ground thawed in the spring, some of the trees settled below ground level. On some lots, this was aggravated when soil was added for grading and lawn-planting. As a result, some trees are 4" below ground level.

Attempting to replant the deep trees during the wet spring, particularly in this clayey soil, would only worsen these conditions... and I advised Tim Baker, the landscape contractor of this. Our only recourse is to see how these trees do on their own and evaluate their condition, individually, in late summer and then decide what actions should be taken; that is, replacement, replanting or re-grading. The trees should then be evaluated the following summer before a final determination of livability is made.

I therefore recommend that the town retain funds for two years to accomplish this.

Submitted 5/21/14