

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING FOR TREE REMOVALS — PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
JUNE 18, 2026
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING AND CITY HALL- ROOM 225**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Monique Cipriano at mcipriano@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Torre called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE: Jan Degenshein, Anne Wennerstrand, Nicole Eaddy, Richard Dellinger, Darlene Young (6:03p.m.)

STAFF: Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Police Chief Walsh; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Fred Bretherton, Assistant Property Manager

Mr. Torre acknowledged those present as noted above.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE REMOVAL OF 4 CITY TREES LOCATED AT 1 MONROE STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Chief Walsh gave a brief explanation for the removal of the city trees. He displayed pictures of the trees and explained the area of the deterioration and damage. A pedestrian fell and broke his hand due to the sidewalk damage the trees caused. The site line is also compromised.

Mr. Sotnik followed up with information about the trees.

Mr. Degenshein offered his point of view.

The following residents spoke at the public hearing:

- Emma Crisci provided an email that was read at the end of the public hearing and also spoke at the public hearing via zoom. She spoke in opposition to the tree removals and asked for another solution.
- Melani Brandston spoke in opposition to the tree removals and asked for another solution.
- Diane CiCi spoke in opposition to the tree removals and stated they cannot afford to lose the canopy.
- Gia Shen spoke in opposition to the tree removals. She doesn't want to lose the canopy and offered alternative solutions.
- Jack Pavia spoke in opposition to the tree removals. He is concerned about losing the shade the trees provide.
- Paul Fox spoke in opposition to the tree removals. He would like to see the trees replaced.
- Diane Keefe spoke in opposition to the tree removals. She stated the trees are valuable to the ecosystem.
- Ben Hanpeter spoke in opposition to the tree removals. He stated they need the canopy.
- Emily Burnaman spoke in opposition to the tree removals. She stated that it is one of the few areas that provide shade.
- Tanner Thompson spoke in opposition to the tree removals.
- Diane Lauricella spoke in opposition to the tree removals. She asked if there were evaluations made on the trees and were there any other alternatives.
- Ashley Smith spoke in opposition to the tree removals.
- Dan Darbandi provided an email opposing the tree removals and asked for another solution.

The consensus of the speakers was in opposition to the tree removals. A request was made to the committee asking them to look for possible alternatives to removal.

Mr. Torre stated the next steps. A discussion ensued about the tree removals, possible

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Public Works Committee

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alternatives to removal, a comprehensive plan for replacement, as well as requesting the opinion of the arborist.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Monique Cipriano