

LORAX COMMITTEE
(Local Ordinance for Resilient Arboreal Xenodochy)
September 10, 2025
Meeting Minutes

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Call to order: 6:17pm

Present: Christopher Tribou, William Bulens, Brenda Komarinski

Absent: Shelley Rosenbaum-Lipman, Mary St. George

(meeting location changed from Evelyn Haines Conference Room on the second floor of the Town Hall to the Collins conference room, also on the second floor due to technological issues in the Haines room)

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

We reviewed the August 20th meeting minutes. Brenda made a motion to accept them. Bill seconded the motion. All approved.

Chris handed out copies of the Massachusetts Guide to Local Tree Bylaws from the dcr. We took a few moments to review and highlight. We then discussed the purposes of the tree bylaw:

- Preserving trees
- Preventing injury from trees
- Native trees vs Invasive trees

We asked where this bylaw will apply. Conservation has mitigation in place for tree removal. We asked what issues we are clarifying. The protected areas already have rules.

We determined that some of the clarification needs to concern property size. We have a Tree Warden, however, that position is currently open. The enforcement would fall primarily on the Tree Warden. We need to allow 20 feet around buildings to be cleared. Currently, there are rules concerning dangerous or diseased tree removal. Whatever bylaw we craft, it has to work with the planning board and not make permitting a labyrinth. Public lands already have some sort of public trees rules in place. We need to make sure that we work with the rules in place already. It was noted that Rt 3A is covered by the state.

Our first action item is to get together all the rules in town already and see where we need to strengthen them. Chris will work on this. Donna McCoy may be able to help.

We need to know what the Tree Warden's responsibilities are.

We need to make a guideline to help make the issuing a building permit easier, not harder.

We need to ensure that it is not impossible to cut a tree down. We need to encourage people to be good stewards of the trees. Perhaps we have a tree fund for mitigation of extreme tree removal by a property owner.

We need to clarify who is in charge of what:

- Conservation
- Planning
- DPW
- Tree Warden
- Cemetery

We need to start filling in the sample outline of our byline. At the next meeting we want to have our Title, Purpose, Definitions, and Jurisdiction. Many of the definitions are already provided in the Guide.

We will need to meet in October, November, December, January, February, March. In March the Town Meeting warrant article is due for the May Spring Town Meeting.

Wednesdays do not work for Mary. We will try meeting on the third Thursdays of the month.

Our next meeting will be Thursday October 23 at 6:15 pm.

We have tentatively scheduled the November meeting for Thursday November 20 at 6:15pm.

Chris will put together an agenda and email it to us. He had the town post the agenda for the September meeting 2 days in advance, but we could not see it on the town's website.

Bill made a motion to adjourn. Chris seconded it. All approve.

Meeting closed at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Komarinski
Vice-Chair
LORAX Committee