

From 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to add a new chapter to the Town Code, Chapter 153, Trees, as follows;

“Chapter 153-Trees

§153-1 Intent and purpose.

It is the intent of this Bylaw to sustain environmental health, enhance economic wellbeing and quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Southborough. Public trees make an important contribution to the character and heritage of Southborough's neighborhoods. This Bylaw establishes policy for ensuring the health and longevity of the Town's existing and future trees, and is enacted in furtherance of the Town Meeting votes of May 29, 1975 on Article 63, and May 19, 1976 on Article 37.

§153-2 Applicability.

The Town follows the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, (M.G.L. c. 87), Shade Trees, to the extent applicable. This Bylaw shall be consistent with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40, s. 15C entitled Scenic Road Designations; Improvements; Fines, as amended.

§153-3 Tree Warden.

The care and management of public trees shall be the responsibility of the Tree Warden, or that official's designee. The Tree Warden is responsible for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other designated public places in accordance with M.G.L. C. 87 s. 2.

§153-4 Public shade trees.

It shall be the policy of the Town of Southborough to encourage the conservation of public shade trees (as defined in M.G.L. c. 87 s. 1) and to establish a planned program of planting trees as defined in MGL c.87 s.7. The Tree Warden shall determine the type and size of the tree with the goal to have a native public shade tree planted in a location at the discretion of the Tree Warden.”

; or do or act anything in relation thereto.

Proposed by: PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen Recommendation: At Town Meeting *

Advisory Committee Recommendation: Support

Summary: *These actions are requirements for the Town of Southborough to acquire the Tree City USA designation. Tree City USA designation enriches the environment, increases property values, enhances the economic vitality of business areas, beautifies the community, and provides opportunities for grant funding*

**Note: The Board of Selectmen subsequently voted to support the Article at their March 5th meeting.*