A public hearing was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2019, at 12:00PM for trees posted for removal in the southern portion of Binney Park. As required by Chapter 451, Section 23-59 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a public hearing was called because of numerous appeals objecting to the removal of these trees were received within ten days of their posting.

The subject trees were recommended to be removed in accordance with a master plan prepared by Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC and submitted to the Town of Greenwich in July 2015. The plan was accepted by the Town of Greenwich Board of Parks and Recreation, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Board of Selectmen. Prior to the development of the plan several public facilitated ‘stakeholder’ meetings were held in Old Greenwich where residents were asked what they would like Binney Park to be. Regarding the landscape, it was determined that it was necessary to “develop and implement a comprehensive planting plan, one that revives historic plantings, removes overgrown plants, and introduces salt-tolerant native plants.” However, we will exercise some discretion as to species selection the plan to move forward will be more gradually phased in over the next two to three years.

Therefore, based on my research of the circumstances associated with these trees, and taking into account the concerns of parties present at the Public Hearing and correspondence received, my decision is not to remove all of the 20 trees as the proposed but to gradually phase in the tree removals over the next two to three years and require the immediate replacement of any trees removed with tree species tolerant of a wet environment. Trees recommended for removal because of their proximity to areas with future plans for formal gardens or plantings shall only be removed when final plans for those plantings have been properly vetted and approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Board of Parks and Recreation.
A tree by tree listing of trees to be removed (see attached plan maps with trees highlighted and numbered):

1. Crabapple; to be removed only when plans for the formal garden is approved and funded.

2. Crabapple; to be removed only when plans for the formal garden is approved and funded.

3. Crabapple; to be removed only when plans for the formal garden is approved and funded.

4. Sugar Maple; to be removed only when plans for the formal garden is approved and funded.

5. Crabapple; to be removed in Spring 2019 and immediately replaced with an ornamental tree tolerant of a wet environment.

6. Crabapple; to be removed in either 2020 or 2021 and immediately replaced with an ornamental tree tolerant of a wet environment, timing subject to approval by the Tree Warden.

7. Crabapple; to be removed in Spring 2019 and immediately replaced with an ornamental tree tolerant of a wet environment.

8. Crabapple; to be removed in either 2020 or 2021 and immediately replaced with an ornamental tree tolerant of a wet environment, timing subject to approval by the Tree Warden.

9. Dogwood; remove in Spring 2019 replace immediately.

10. Crabapple; to be removed only when plans for the formal garden is approved and funded.

11. Crabapple; to be removed only when plans for the formal garden is approved and funded.

12. Crabapple; to be removed in Spring 2019 and immediately replaced with a shade tree tolerant of a wet environment.

13. Crabapple; to be removed in either 2020 or 2021 and immediately replaced with a shade tree tolerant of a wet environment, timing subject to approval by the Tree Warden.

14. Crabapple; to be removed in Spring 2019 and immediately replaced with a shade tree tolerant of a wet environment.

15. Crabapple; to be removed in either 2020 or 2021 and immediately replaced with an ornamental tree tolerant of a wet environment; timing subject to approval by the Tree Warden.

16. Crabapple; to be removed in Spring 2019 and immediately replaced with a shade tree tolerant of a wet environment.

17. Crabapple; to be removed in either 2020 or 2021 and immediately replaced with an ornamental tree tolerant of a wet environment; timing subject to approval the Tree Warden.

18. Crabapple; to be removed in Spring 2019 and immediately replaced with a shade tree tolerant of a wet environment.
19. **Red Cedar;** NOT to be removed at this time, (note: there is a pending proposed replacement bridge design and construction which may impact this tree in the future).

20. **Hemlock;** remove Spring 2019 due to poor condition.

It is further noted that seven (7) additional shade trees, tolerant of a wet environment, will be planted in the Spring or Summer of 2019 along the Park Road from the position of tree #18 north to the tennis courts.

This is the final decision of the Tree Warden of the Town of Greenwich. Let it be known that Chapter 451, Section 23-59 of the Connecticut General Statutes states “the Tree Warden shall render his decision granting or denying the application, and the party aggrieved by such decision may, within ten days, appeal therefrom to the superior court or the judicial district within which such town or borough is located.”

This decision will be posted in the lobby of the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department located on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall, the lobby of Town Hall, the Town Clerk’s office, and the Town of Greenwich website [www.greenwichct.gov/AgendaCenter Parks & Recreation - Public Tree Hearing](http://www.greenwichct.gov/AgendaCenter Parks & Recreation - Public Tree Hearing). It will also be sent to persons present at the Public Hearing and to those who appealed the posting of these trees for removal.

As your Tree Warden, by Connecticut statute, I am charged with the “care and control” of all town-owned trees. The Tree Division doesn’t take this responsibility lightly. Each and every tree slated for removal is inspected and decided on a case-by-case basis.

It is our belief that trees on streets, in parks, school campuses, open space properties, woodlands and at town facilities all constitute what we call Greenwich’s Community Forest. This special forest provides important environmental, aesthetic, recreational and social benefits to its residents. The Community Forest also needs to be safe for its residents and strive to be compatible with necessary town infrastructure improvements such as roads, sidewalks, buildings, underground and overhead utilities. These trees often grow in extremely difficult conditions and hard decisions often need to be made.

I would like to thank all the residents and the Town administration for the opportunity to serve as your Tree Warden and Superintendent of Parks for the past 16 ½ years.

Sincerely,

Bruce Spaman, Superintendent of Parks / Tree Warden  
Town of Greenwich  
Department of Parks and Recreation