

John Long

From: luminainfinite@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Ulysses Lateiner
Cc: City Council; City Clerk Contact; Somerville's Friends of the Urban Forest; Chris Dwan; reneetscott@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Tree Preservation Ordinance

Dear City Councilors,

I join the chorus of concerned Somerville citizens asking you to make the choice to protect and preserve our city's trees. Please act immediately to pass the proposed tree preservation ordinance. Change cannot wait!

If this legislation is postponed until the Fall it will endanger many more trees. We cannot afford to lose even one more tree. We hold you responsible for making this urgent update to outdated laws.

Please do not delay this duty we have to all of the citizens of Somerville. I am one of those citizens who cannot afford their own private trees.

I am at the mercy of those with more resources and privilege than I have, so I ask that you intercede and make it fair for all of us who breathe the same air and walk on the same sidewalks. A tree doesn't belong to any one person, it belongs to all of us.

Your actions in this matter define who you are as leaders and who we are as a city and community.

We must be mature, forward thinking and resolute in declaring our values as a city. Is Somerville committed to its trees or not?

The voters and citizens of Somerville are counting on you to act quickly to protect all of us from further damage to our air quality, quality of life and mental health.

Please take action on behalf of all of us.

Myself, my two children, my husband, as residents of affordable housing, who cannot afford to own our own trees or green backyard in Somerville, we quite literally beg you to please protect the few trees that still poke out above rooftops of other people's yards. We are residents of Beacon St. We no longer have shade from green leaves or the white Spring blossoms that once lined our walks outside. The street is bare and the tiny new "trees" in wells along the street hardly make a difference for at least 10 years.

The few large trees that remain in our neighborhood are on private property now. We truly hope and sincerely ask that you will exercise your ability to protect this incredible part of life on earth. Please encourage and help private homeowners to make community and earth friendly decisions.

I speak very straightforwardly when I say that if you wait and turn a blind eye to this issue until September, you will have taken a risk that bears badly on your reputation as good leaders. You can act now and we beg you to do so.

Thank you,

Lumina Gershfield Cordova
Rene Cordova
Georgio Gershfield Cordova
Shalom Gershfield Cordova
65 Beacon St. #202

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 12, 2019, at 2:11 PM, Ulysses Lateiner <ulysseslateiner@gmail.com> wrote:

To the City Council:

I am writing to second Chris Dwan's comments. The longer the Council waits before enacting these badly needed tree protections, the fewer trees will be left to benefit from the protections. I hope you will prioritize the necessary amendments and voting on this ordinance.

thank you,
Ulysses Lateiner
15 Chandler Street

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 12:07 PM Chris Dwan <chris@dwan.org> wrote:

Honorable Councilors,

I am writing to ask you to amend and pass the proposed tree preservation ordinance as soon as possible this spring, before the coming budget season and summer recess.

There is an old saying: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is today." I believe that this applies just as well to creating laws to protect our trees.

I attended the April 4 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Legislative Matters Committee. I watched Councilor Scott's presentation, and I was encouraged by your detailed questions, not least because in so many cases the answers to the questions were in his slides, or in the ordinance itself.

I was discouraged at the end of the meeting when city staff suggested that it would likely be Fall before they could find the time to do the necessary research to bring forward proposed revisions to this legislation. This position was doubly disappointing to me because of our close work with city staff in law, strategy, and planning while we were developing this proposal.

I understand the importance of input and advice from the Mayor's administration. They are the ones who will be tasked to implement and enforce these laws. Their perspective and assent is invaluable.

In this case, however, I also believe that it would be disastrous to wait through another full season with no legal protections whatsoever for Somerville's trees. Already this year we have seen clear cuts along Somerville Ave, on Cherry Street, Webster Ave, Eastman Road, Franklin Street, and in other places around the city. This will only accelerate as developers make good on their promises from testimony in hearings and in the comments section of our local newspapers.

I ask you to act swiftly to amend the proposed ordinance to correct the small flaws that were identified last Thursday, and then adopt it as the law of the city. It is time to act, without further delay.

Please take swift action to amend and pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,

-Chris Dwan
Ward 2, Somerville

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John Long

From: Dominique Stassart <dstassart@alum.bu.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Mary Reynolds
Cc: Lumina Gershfield; John Wilde; Allison Buckley; A. T.; Steven Nutter; Lynn Weissman; Renee Scott; JT Scott; Wilfred Mbah; Jesse Clingan; William A. White; Ben Ewen-Campen; Katjana Ballantyne; Lance Davis; Mark Niedergang; MaryJo Rossetti; Matthew McLaughlin; Stephanie Hirsch; City Clerk Contact; Somerville's Friends of the Urban Forest; Green and Open Somerville
Subject: Re: Tree Preservation Ordinance

Dear Somerville city councilors:

I can only add my voice to Renée Scott's plea, and all my fellow residents': you have my support for the Tree Preservation ordinance and I am asking you to please pass it.

Respectfully,

Dominique Stassart - 47 Columbus Ave

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 7:37 PM Mary Reynolds <mrm1179@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Somerville City Council,

I echo what has been written. Sadly we can not bring back any of the trees that have already been prematurely taken but we can stop it from happening to more trees. We CAN stop this. I feel ill in my stomach every time I see trees being cut down & my children keep asking me why...

Please pass the Tree Preservation Ordinance now, before we loose any more green!

Thank you for your time.

Warmly,
Mary, Adam, Lily & Adam
31 Clark Street

Sent from my iPhone, please excuse brevity & typos. :-)

On Apr 12, 2019, at 3:54 PM, luminainfinite@gmail.com wrote:

Here is a plea to the City Council from a mother, two children and a father who live in affordable housing on Beacon St, where after the tall strong trees were all cut down, very few birds can be heard singing this spring and we desperately miss the white spring blossoms that used to greet us as we walked down to Whole Foods, to please please please please please please Pass The Tree Protection Ordinance!

Please!

Please!

Please!

We literally beg you to take this urgent action.

We have so few tall trees left in our neighborhood. They will be gone too soon without protections in place.

We all know how this will go if you decide to delay.

Please make a bold, courageous and moral statement about Somerville as a Tree City.

We can do this! Pass the Tree Preservation Ordinance this Spring! Let's do the right thing!

Thank you!

Lumina, Rene, Georgio and Shalom Gershfield Cordova
65 Beacon St.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 12, 2019, at 2:49 PM, John Wilde <johnhwilde@gmail.com> wrote:

Please do all you can to preserve, protect, and add to Somerville's tree canopy.

It must be done for the health of our residents and if the city is sincere about living up to its environmental goals.

Sincerely,

John Wilde
224 Highland Ave.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 12, 2019, at 2:01 PM, Allison Buckley <buckley.allison@gmail.com> wrote:

To Somerville City Council:

I agree wholeheartedly with Renée and others who have responded.
Please pass the tree preservation ordinance. Our trees are so precious in Somerville, we must work together to protect them!

Thank you.
Allison Buckley
35 Vernon Street

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 1:26 PM A. T. <atutter@gmail.com> wrote:
To the Council,

I agree with Renee and the others who have replied-- I very much would like to see this ordinance passed. It is much needed!

Anton Tutter
47 Oxford Street
Somerville, MA 02143

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM Steven Nutter <snutter@gmail.com> wrote:

Definitely agree—please pass this ordinance!

Steven Nutter
24 Maple

Sent from a tiny keyboard, written with a big thumb.

On Apr 12, 2019, at 6:52 PM, Lynn Weissman
<Lynn@weisswomanproductions.com> wrote:

To the Somerville City Council,

I wholeheartedly agree with the comments of Renee Scott regarding the need for this tree preservation ordinance.

Thank you.
Lynn Weissman
112 Belmont St., Somerville, MA 02143

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 12:45 PM Renee Scott
<reneescott@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Honorable Councilors,

I write to you to express my support for the tree preservation ordinance and to respectfully request that you pass it, with the changes discussed last week during its presentation in legislative matters. The original draft was extreme and I know you heard a lot of negative feedback about it, but this revision is reasonable and well-thought out and the only way we can protect some of our most vulnerable trees from wanton slaughter due to construction, negligence, and a lack of understanding about how important trees are to a healthy community.

So many of the properties under construction will never be lived on by the developer, so it only makes sense that they want to make their job as easy as possible and cut any tree in their way. But it also makes sense that we prevent this from continuing. Trees are not an inconvenience: they are miraculous air purifiers, water absorbers, and natural air conditioners. Because they take so long to reach maturity, simply cutting and replacing is taking two steps backward and one step forward. We are losing ground with every tree we allow to be felled at the convenience of a construction project.

Walk around Somerville and note how very many of our neighborhoods are devoid of trees; whole swaths are denuded. This is not healthy. Study after study has shown that our physical and mental wellbeing is linked to access to healthy and plentiful green space. Trees are

the foundation of a healthy green space. So please take this step to protect the trees in Somerville, which most certainly qualify as endangered species here.

Warmly,

Renée Scott
Green & Open Somerville

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<http://greenopensomerville.blogspot.com>

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For more options, visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

John Long

From: janine fay <janine.fay@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Renée Thomas Scott
Cc: JT Scott; Wilfred Mbah; Jesse Clingan; William A. White; Ben Ewen-Campen; Katjana Ballantyne; Lance Davis; Mark Niedergang; MaryJo Rossetti; Matthew McLaughlin; Stephanie Hirsch; City Clerk Contact; Somerville's Friends of the Urban Forest; Green and Open Somerville
Subject: Re: Tree Preservation Ordinance

Dear Councilors,

I'd like to know why you would ever vote against it.....

Thank you

Janine Fay
617 504 9059

On Apr 12, 2019, at 1:26 PM, A. T. <atutter@gmail.com> wrote:

To the Council,

I agree with Renee and the others who have replied-- I very much would like to see this ordinance passed. It is much needed!

Anton Tutter
47 Oxford Street
Somerville, MA 02143

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM Steven Nutter <snutter@gmail.com> wrote:
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Steven Nutter
24 Maple

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On Apr 12, 2019, at 6:52 PM, Lynn Weissman <Lynn@weisswomanproductions.com> wrote:

To the Somerville City Council,

I wholeheartedly agree with the comments of Renee Scott regarding the need for this tree preservation ordinance.

Thank you.
Lynn Weissman
112 Belmont St., Somerville, MA 02143

John Long

From: David Scott <thornewood@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Allison Buckley
Cc: A. T.; Steven Nutter; Lynn Weissman; Renee Scott; JT Scott; Wilfred Mbah; Jesse Clingan; William A. White; Ben Ewen-Campen; Katjana Ballantyne; Lance Davis; Mark Niedergang; MaryJo Rossetti; Matthew McLaughlin; Stephanie Hirsch; City Clerk Contact; Somerville's Friends of the Urban Forest; Green and Open Somerville
Subject: Re: Tree Preservation Ordinance

Dear City Council,

This stuff **matters**. It is not tree-huggers vs. people-lovers. If you love people, protect trees and other green space.

"A study [published](#) Monday in the journal *PNAS* details what the scientists say is the largest investigation of the association between green spaces and mental health.

Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark found that growing up near vegetation is associated with an up to 55 percent lower risk of mental health disorders in adulthood."

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/02/25/697788559/greener-childhood-associated-with-happier-adulthood>

Sincerely,

David Scott
63 Boston Street #2

On Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 2:02 PM Allison Buckley <buckley.allison@gmail.com> wrote:
To Somerville City Council:

I agree wholeheartedly with Renée and others who have responded. Please pass the tree preservation ordinance. Our trees are so precious in Somerville, we must work together to protect them!

Thank you.
Allison Buckley
35 Vernon Street

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To the Council,

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Anton Tutter
47 Oxford Street
Somerville, MA 02143

John Long

From: Marshall Wallace <marshallwalrus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:53 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Cc: JT Scott; Wilfred Mbah; Jesse Clingan; William A. White; Ben Ewen-Campen; Katjana Ballantyne; Lance Davis; Mark Niedergang; MaryJo Rossetti; Matthew McLaughlin; Stephanie Hirsch
Subject: Tree Preservation Ordinance

Dear Councilors,

Respectfully, I ask that you pass the tree preservation ordinance.

There is no law of nature that says Somerville will continue to be a great place to live and raise a family. Decisions we make today affect our city's future for good and for ill. Letting our already sparse tree cover be further denuded is short-sighted at best. At worst, it contributes to a future where Somerville is no longer desirable as a place to live, work, or play.

Please take this action to keep our city fair!

Best regards,

Marshall Wallace
26 Berkeley Street

John Long

From: Kamawi <kamawibutterfly@rcn.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2019 5:22 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Cc: JT Scott; Wilfred Mbah; Jesse Clingan; William A. White; Ben Ewen-Campen; Katjana Ballantyne; Lance Davis; Mark Niedergang; MaryJo Rossetti; Matthew McLaughlin; Stephanie Hirsch
Subject: Tree Preservation Ordinance

Respectfully and hopefully,
Please pass the tree preservation ordinance.

Thank you,
Katherine Martin Widmer