

Jaclyn Norton

From: Carol Moore
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Jaclyn Norton
Subject: Fwd: Citizens' Petition on Trees
Attachments: 22_1014 Newton Cemetery & Arboretum_ Tree Preservation Ordinance.pdf; Trees Citizens Petition signatures ALL 230504.pdf

Carol Moore, CMC
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council

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From: Protect Newton Trees <protectnewtontrees@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:41:04 AM
To: Carol Moore <cmoore@newtonma.gov>
Cc: Melissa Brown <brown.truncer@gmail.com>; Pat Irwin <pai2737@hotmail.com>; martinatjackson@gmail.com <martinatjackson@gmail.com>; Ellie Goldberg <ellie.goldberg@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Citizens' Petition on Trees

[**DO NOT OPEN** links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Ms. Moore,

I am writing to request confirmation that you received this Citizens' Petition, sent on Friday.

Thanks,
Melissa Brown

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Protect Newton Trees <protectnewtontrees@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, May 12, 2023 at 4:40 PM
Subject: Citizens' Petition on Trees
To: Carol Moore <cmoore@newtonma.gov>, <citycouncil@newtonma.gov>
Cc: Pat Irwin <pai2737@hotmail.com>, Ellie Goldberg <ellie.goldberg@gmail.com>, <martinatjackson@gmail.com>, Melissa Brown <brown.truncer@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Moore and Newton City Council Members,

We the undersigned are submitting a Citizens' Petition requesting immediate action and public input on a stronger tree protection ordinance.

Our Petition puts before you four points that we consider crucial for the ordinance to forward City and Commonwealth climate goals and to be able to access state funding related to trees and climate resilience.

We are taking this step of a Citizens' Petition for four reasons:

1. Councilors proposed a revision to the tree ordinance in June 2022, but that docket item is still languishing in the Programs and Services Committee.
2. The Programs and Services Committee's straw votes have indicated a willingness to exempt from even limited protections 82% of Newton's residential properties—which amounts to 53% of Newton's total City land area and includes the wealthiest properties in Newton—as well as another property of 4.5 million square feet. We think exempting so much of Newton lands not only is inequitable and fails City and state climate goals but also will jeopardize the City's ability to access important state climate funding.
3. The Programs and Services Committee has yet to take any public comment, despite having given a 1.5-hour site visit to the Newton Cemetery Corporation, a non-profit corporation whose own handbook materials given to the Committee at that visit state that its first goal is to “increase revenue” (p. 5 of the attached NCC PDF) and that its use of a (low-level) arboretum designation is for branding purposes, as it does “not directly support revenue development” (p. 6 of the NCC PDF). (“Arboretum” is not part of their legal, corporate name.)
4. It is not clear whether the Programs and Services Committee plans to hold any public hearing or to take “some public comments” at an unknown time.

We ask the City Council to treat with respect the concerns of its citizens about needing a tree ordinance that meets City and state climate goals without exacerbating inequalities.

An electronic copy of the petition follows this letter and petitions with physical signatures are attached.

Sincerely,

Pat Irwin
Melissa Brown
Martina Jackson
Ellie Goldberg

In accordance with Article 10, Section 10-2 of the Newton Charter, each of the undersigned requests that the City Council of the City of Newton pass the following measure:

The Tree Preservation ordinance (Chapter 21, Article 3, Division 3) shall apply protection regulations to all healthy, not-dangerous trees 6-inches DBH (in Diameter at Breast Height) and larger on all properties in the City of Newton not owned by the State or Federal Government. These regulations shall include, but are not limited to, the following requirements:

- No person shall remove a protected tree (6-inches DBH or larger) without obtaining a tree-removal permit.
- The ordinance shall apply to all properties in Newton not owned by the State or Federal Government, without exception or exemption.
- Owners of abutting properties shall be notified of each tree-removal application.
- Mitigation of environmental and health damages to abutters and the City community from tree removal must occur through payment and replacement of trees.
 - Mitigation in cash or replacement trees may *only* be waived if the application process provides acceptable certification that the protected tree is dead, diseased, or dangerous or that removal of the protected tree will improve the overall health of the tree canopy.

Pat Irwin	115 West St, 02458	1
Arlene Lowney	612 Watertown St	2
John J. Prior	11 Chesley Rd	6
William Dowdell	58 Prescott St	2
Martina Jackson	115 Lowell Avenue, 02460	2
Melissa Brown	949 Chestnut St., Newton Upper Falls 20464	5
Judith Lawrence	15 Albion St, 02459	6
Alan J. Nogee	48 Kingston Rd	6
Amy Mah Sangiolo	389 Central St	4
James Truncer	949 Chestnut St, 02464	5
Donna Sirutis	19 Grant Street, 02465	3
Jessica Archer	621 Watertown St, unit 28	2
Robert Persons	2396 Commonwealth Ave	4
Melanie Renaud	116 Algonquin Rd, 02467	7
Barbara DiVitto	29 Charlotte Rd, 02359	6
Cindy Calloway	83 Grove Hill Avenue 02460	2
Tom Penhale	21 Francis St, #2	7
Hanning Lu	112 Osborne Path, 02459	8
Andrew Breithaupt	37 Fox Hill Rd, 02459	8
Leslie M. Medoff	7 Hereward Rd, 02459	6
Robert Gaudes	21 Mt Vernon Ter, 02465	2
William Dain	199 Harvard Circle	2
Josh Wachman	30 Clifton Rd	8
Lisa Donfrancesco	6 Lowell Ave	2
Bai Jiang (?)	112 K Roadway (= 112 Osborne Path), 02468	8
Betty Tolkin	43 Kelveden Rd, 02468	5
Marcia B. Appell	21 Francis St, #2	7
David Backer	47 Page Rd, 02460	2

Ruth Dain	199 Harvard Circle	2
Maureen R Meagher	342 Quinobequin Rd	5
David Michael	266 Woodland Rd	4
Margaret Howard	24 Madison Ave, 02460	2
Robert Carter	126 East Side Pkwy	1
Susan Legere	30 Fuller Ter	3
Marianne Talis	72 Lincoln St, #2	3
Nathan Greenstein	111 Eliot Ave, 02465	3
Eileen Kurkoski	108 Derby St, 02465	3
Jane A. Brown	104 Atwood Ave	2
Chagit Steiner	48 Woodward St	5
Abhishek Verma	100 Christina St	8
Martha Hayward	930 Beacon St	6
Summer Low	2 Barnes Rd	1
Simran Khatri	103 Craftsland Rd	8
Sharyn Roberts	21 Royce Rd	2
Joanna L. Mann	1600 Washington St, #220	3
Sarah Mausner	49 Central St	4
Jennifer Vydra	80 Brookside Ave	2
Anna Yan	206 Sumner St (#7?)	6
Charlotte Cutter	116 West St, 02458	1
Jeff Somers	60 Adams Ave	4
Lawrence Licklider	17 Wilde Rd, 02468	5
John Hofmann	86 Fairway Dr, 02465	3
Lucy Billings	?	?
Sue Bottino	67 Lewis St, 02458	1
Shariq Usmani	15 Frederick St, 02460	2
Lori Green	21 Holland St, 02458	1
Evan Hoffman	4 Crown St, 02466	4
Deanna Hoffman	4 Crown St, 02466	4
Cindy Mapes	108 Adena Rd, 02465	3
Eric Myrvaagnes	59 Morseland Ave, 02459	2
Bernice Wong	1863 Commonwealth Ave	4
Naomi Myrvaagnes	59 Morseland Ave, 02459	2
Sejal Miller	29 Winchester Rd	1
Guna Svendsen	11 Washington St, #1	1
Kathleen Hammill	64 Ober Rd, 02459	8
Christopher Gruener	85 Floral Street 02461	6
Constance Williams	85 Floral Street 02461	6
Jeff Miller	29 Winchester Rd	1
Darby Neff-Verre	32 Keefe Ave	5
Ethel Ober (?)	?	?

Betsy B. Davis

26 Marshall St

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