

VILLAGE OF MEDINA
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
600 MAIN STREET MEDINA, NEW YORK 14103

"Roots in the past. planting for the future."



Acer truncatum Pacific Sunset maple

Why a Municipal Tree Board?

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The establishment of a Municipal Tree Ordinance and Municipal Tree Board occurred nearly two years ago, however several reasons led the village to take this action. First, over the past twenty or more years, much of the village forest had reached maturity. Many of the towering trees that remained along our streets were (and are) Silver Maples, a large number of which were planted at the turn of the last century. As these trees aged and reached the end of their healthy lives they have succumbed to disease, insect infestation, and storm damage. Many have been and continue to be removed because they are dangerous. 95 are scheduled for removal just this year alone.

The watershed moment in realizing that something needed to be done soon came with the advent of the recent Pass-Through Project, and the wholesale removal of trees along Main Street, from Maple Ridge to Prospect Avenue. As a result, some research was done and the village enacted a Municipal Tree Ordinance, formed a Municipal Tree Board. Since then over sixty trees have been planted in the village, not including the over 200 planted as a result of the Pass-Through Project.

But was it really necessary to undertake all of this governmental action just to plant trees? As it turns out there is much more to planning for and planting trees throughout a municipality than you might think. Over the first half of the

20th century, many mistakes were made in foresting communities all over the country, including Medina. As municipal forests matured, errors in planning and planting became more evident, and people began to take interest in a new area of study: urban forestry. Such questions as “What tree species are best used where and why?” were asked, and the answers were surprisingly complex. Such factors as disease and insect resistance, tolerance of salinity, soil types and requirements, microclimates, are just a few of the many things to consider when planning for tree plantings in a municipal environment. In communities across America, urban foresters, arborists, and community leaders began to come together and examine the findings of this new area of study. The result was the creation of comprehensive tree plans which included the establishment of tree ordinances and tree boards.

The mission of such ordinances and boards is multilayered. First and foremost is to protect the health, safety and welfare of both the public and the trees in a municipality. This is accomplished by establishing standards and regulations to control planting, planning, removal, and maintenance of village trees. It also provides for the protection of trees within public rights of way and public land areas from such things as undesirable and unsafe planting, along with unsafe removal and maintenance. Tree ordinances and tree boards also promote the enhancement and natural beauty of the Village while preventing damage to public sewers, water mains, streets, sidewalks or other public properties. It also provides for the protection of trees against the spread of disease or pests through proper planning, planting, and maintenance.

One of the most important aspects of the Tree Board’s mission is to assist property owners replacing old trees and planting new ones in the right of way near their homes. The process is simple: Anyone who wishes to plant a tree on a public right of way needs to stop by the Village Building Department and pick up an application– it’s free. Fill out the application and return it to the Building Department. It will be passed on to the Tree Board who will contact the citizen and help them select the right tree for their site, based on a variety of criteria, some of which were mentioned above. **Do not purchase and/or plant a tree**

prior to submittal and approval of an application! Once a tree has been selected and approved, the board and DPW will assist in procuring a quality tree and planting it on the designated site. The citizen pays for the tree at the Village Clerks office. The tree is then released by the village for planting. The cost depends on the size and species of the tree. One other note on planting trees: Any planned tree planting should occur in the months of April, May, or early June. Conditions are best during these months, and will ensure a newly planted tree a healthy start. Some planting can occur in late October and November, however, many trees are a fall planting hazard. In other words, they need time to establish before winter and will not survive. In such cases it is simply best to wait until spring.

Educate yourself about Medina's village forest, and it's future. The members of the Municipal Tree Board are here for presentations, discussions, and most of all to assist citizens in choosing the right tree for the right spot. For more information, contact any Tree Board member, or the village Building Department for more details. We're here to work together with you to ensure a healthy, safe, and beautiful village forest!