



Tree Preservation Planning Committee Public Listening Session

June 4, 2025

Town Hall, Powers Hall and Zoom

Committee Purpose



The Tree Preservation Planning Committee will review options for preserving the Town's tree canopy (both public and private) and make recommendations for action to the Select Board.

Committee Charge



1. Host a public listening session early in the Committee's work to solicit general thoughts, ideas, questions and concerns from members of the Needham community regarding tree preservation.
2. Review the Town Manager's working group draft goals for tree preservation and recommend changes as appropriate.
3. Review tree preservation strategies in similarly situated communities.
4. Gather feedback from stakeholders including homeowners, developers, builders and members of boards and committees.
5. Investigate funding sources for tree preservation including grants, fees, and Community Preservation funding.
6. Evaluate and recommend changes to rules, regulations, policies and by-laws to implement tree preservation strategies.

Committee Charge



7. Investigate available data on the existence and removal of public and private trees.
8. Develop metrics for tracking tree preservation progress.
9. Develop strategies for raising community awareness about the importance of trees.
10. Identify and report to the Select Board priority tree preservation strategies that could be undertaken prior to the comprehensive plan being finalized or that would have to be advanced in a timely manner for consideration in the Town budget process, Annual Town Meeting, or Special Town Meeting by June 15, 2025.
11. Develop and present a report to the Select Board on tree preservation strategies for private and public trees.

Committee Composition



Member	Seat		Member	Seat
Heidi Frail	Member of the Select Board		Nick Tatar	Local Builder
Clary Coutu	Member of the Conservation Commission		Curt Petrini	Local Developer
Artie Crocker	Member of the Planning Board		Erica Bond	Landscape Architect, Master Gardener, or Resident At-Large Having Experience in Landscape Design to the Extent Practicable
Fred Moder	Member of the Climate Action Committee		Erica Hitchings	Resident At-Large
Joshua Levy	Member of the Stormwater By-Law Working Group		Andrew Bobenski	Resident At-Large
Oscar Mertz	Member of the Large House Review Study Committee			
The Committee is supported by Town staff: Ed Olsen , Certified Arborist and Superintendent of Parks & Forestry, and Gabby Queenan , Sustainability Manager, Department of Public Works.				

Goals for the evening



- Listen and learn about what questions, ideas, and concerns Needham community members have about trees.
- Raise awareness of the Tree Committee and its charge.
- Make connections between attendees and committee members.
- Answer any questions that we can. Make note of any questions that we cannot.

Format for the evening



- 7:00 – 7:15 pm: Welcome & Overview
- 7:15 – 7:45 pm: Small Group Discussions
- 7:45 – 8:00 pm: Report Back to Full Group
- 8:00 – close: Open mic for comments, questions, ideas

Prompts for Small Groups



1. What brought you here tonight? What are your hopes and fears about trees in Needham?
2. What do you want the Tree Committee to know or keep in mind as we begin our work?

If you would rather submit your thoughts in writing, please scan this QR code.



3 Categories of Trees



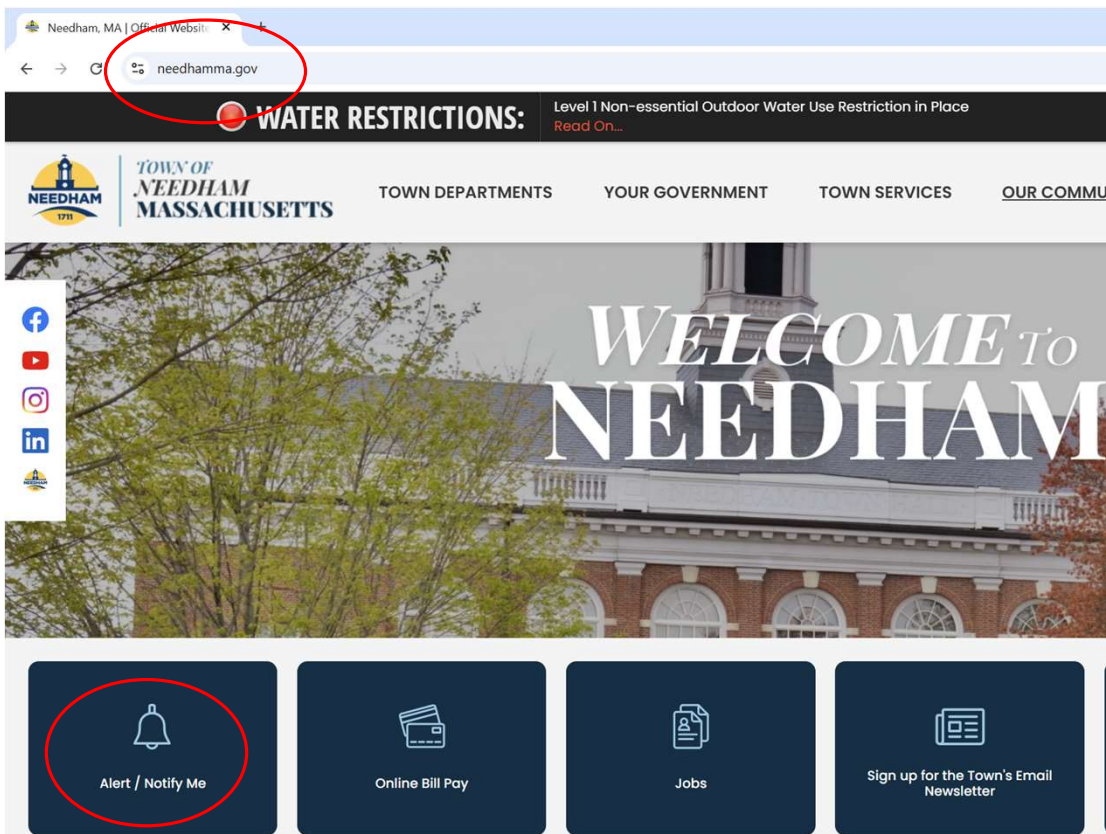
- Public trees: Any tree owned by the Town of Needham. These could be in conservation areas (e.g. Town Forest, Ridge Hill), planted in public parks, or around Town & school buildings.
- Public shade trees: Any tree located in the public right of way (i.e. in the berm or within the road layout).
- Private trees: Any tree located on private property.

Open Public Comment



- Please state your name and address for the record.
- Please limit your comments to 3 minutes.
- We commit to speaking respectfully towards one another.
- We will answer any questions that we can.
- The Committee will gather the information heard tonight and will share it back with the Needham community.
- Your feedback will inform the Committee's future work.

Stay Engaged



- Visit needhamma.gov/TPPC
- Sign up for Alert/Notify Me
- Email otm@needhamma.gov

Thank you!