

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
March 12, 2013

For the meeting of March 7, 2013

TO: Town Council

FROM: Sean Condry, P.E., Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Red Hill Median Tree Removal and Future Replacement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That Town Council acknowledge and file the Red Hill Tree Removal and Future Replacement Project.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

There is a history of mature declining Elms in the Red Hill Median due to the result of unavoidable environmental influences. In 1999 a task force was established to form a plan to replace the declining Elm trees over time this plan will aid in the process to replace Elm trees . Over the past month 11 of American Elms on the Red Hill Median required immediate removal due to severe structural decay which could lead to failure of the large tree branches and trunks. This decay has been brought on by environmental influences such as drought which weakens a plant's defense mechanisms and infestations of Elm Leaf Beetle become the disease vector that contributes to Elm tree decay with Dutch Elm Disease.

The removal of the 11 trees was based on an arborist report by Ed Gurka, Consulting Arborist, which also reports on the remaining 21 trees and their need for removal in the foreseeable future. Therefore, town staff has begun the process of implementing a plan to remove and replace the trees on the median. Currently we are working on a landscape plan for replacement of the trees with the help of time donated by Dick Glanville, Landscape Architect.

The tree replacement plan will incorporate the immediate replacement of the trees as they are removed along with a new irrigation system to insure that the new trees will thrive. The rough cost for the project is from \$50,000 to \$80,000 and George Lucas has offered to pay for a substantial portion of this project if not all of it.

It is anticipated that over the next one to two months that the project scope and plan will have been drafted along with the associated costs. Staff will present the plan to Town Council for their approval and then replanting of the trees will commence shortly thereafter if approved.

FISCAL IMPACT

Final costs to be determined but George Lucas will be paying for a significant portion if not all of the costs. Any remaining costs not covered by the donor will have to come out of the streets and parks budget for trees.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean Condry, P.E.
Public Works Director

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