

Maggie & Matt Whitehead
18 Elmwood Ave
Natick MA, 01760

June 17, 2021

Tree Warden – Natick DPW
Arthur Goodhind

Dear Mr. Goodhind,

We are writing to you to petition against the removal of the four Silver Maple trees at the end of Elmwood Ave. These beautiful, mature trees add a sound barrier, shade, privacy and aesthetic to our street and we would be devastated to see them taken down.

Turning onto Elmwood from busy South Main St, you have a sense of entering a quiet suburban neighborhood, which was a main factor for us in our decision to move to our house. These trees help block the sound from the busy road. You quickly cannot hear the road noise, unlike the other nearby streets without trees. They also provide shade for the many walkers on the street, including the children walking to school. The shade also helps the other vegetation grow, especially in times of drought, and provides cleaner air for all of those living in the area. In a time of rapid development in the town, Natick should be taking all possible steps to protect its environment.

The neighboring streets between S. Main St and Cottage St. like Circular Ave, Walcott St and Cross St have a much more urban feel because they don't have these mature trees. These streets are also major cut through roads to avoid Rt 27 traffic. These trees help slow down traffic and prevent Elmwood from becoming as big of a cut through, which would be a dangerous change because of the hazardous one way at the other end. Our street is home to many young families like ours and the children play safely in the street and in our driveways. We would be very upset to see the road become louder, busier and in turn, more dangerous.

The stated reason for removal is "walkway improvements." We have suffered through almost two years of construction on Rt 27 to improve the sidewalk, a frustrating but necessary project. To create a new walk way would give walkers about 200 feet of sidewalk before it ends. There is a perfectly good sidewalk on the other side of the street and that walkers currently use as they approach S. Main St. We walk every day with my baby in a stroller and use the opposing sidewalk as we get close to the busy road, as do the children walking to school. To take down these trees that have been growing here for decades and add so much value to the neighborhood and destroy the environment for a development project that will add no value would be tragic.

We hope that our home here on Elmwood Ave is our "forever home". We want to raise our family in a forward-thinking community that protects our environment. We implore you to save these trees and in turn protect our precious environment and maintain the beauty of the town.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maggie and Matt Whitehead