

Minutes of the Village of Holland Special Council Meeting  
Held Tuesday, October 29, 2024

At 6:00 pm Mayor Spangler called the special meeting to order. Council members, Sandy Almond, Mike Bettinger, Council President Scott Brown, Sandy Hensley, and Justin Hoen were in attendance. Village Administrator Bob Bethel, Acting Clerk-Treasurer Leslie Ferman, and Village Attorney Paul Skaff were also in attendance. Nate Gaubert was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Spangler advised that the reason for the special meeting was to discuss right of way trees and sidewalk conditions in the Whisperwood Subdivision. Whisperwood residents were notified by mail of the place and time of the meeting.

A sign in sheet was provided for residents who wished to speak about their concerns.

Mayor Spangler shared with those in attendance that there are approximately 254 right of way trees that were planted by the village between 2007 and 2012. Due to various reasons, the right of way trees are damaging approximately 200 sidewalk sections with root growth along and under the sidewalk. Root growth is also impacting sewer lines for some residences.

To address these concerns and to ensure the village is responsive to public welfare by providing safe pedestrian walkways, the village is including right of way tree removal and sidewalk repair of those damaged walkways in the 2025 Whisperwood road project. The project includes Plat 1 and Plat 4 of the subdivision (Yunker Lane, Weatherstone, Hammersmith, Witherby Ct, and half of North Church and half of Northquay). The remaining two plats of the subdivision would be considered for future grant funding for road improvements.

The council will be voting at the November 5, 2024, meeting on whether to proceed with removal of the 254 right of way trees at a cost of \$33,550 in preparation for the road project. The removal of the trees could begin within 30 days. Removal would include grinding out all the stumps, removing grindings, and grinding down those above ground roots in various locations.

After removal of the right of way trees, the village will not allow replanting of trees within the right of way.

Mayor Spangler opened the floor for council member comments: Mrs. Almond requested verification of the involved streets. Mr. Bettinger inquired as to whether the entire subdivision right of way trees were being removed at one time and if a specific setback from right of way could be established for replanting of trees on private property. Mr. Spangler replied that the residents would be able to plant trees in any location except for the right of way. Mr. Hoen advised that Hoen's Greenhouse would be offering replacement trees to residents at cost should they desire to replant on private property. Mayor Spangler indicated that because of this offer, Mr. Hoen would be abstaining from discussion of and voting on this issue.

Mayor Spangler opened the floor for audience comments from those residents who were on the sign-in sheet. A listing of the residents is included at the end of this document.

Comments, questions, and suggestions included: HOA regulations were restructured so that residents would not be required to replant a removed tree in the same location; forced removal of the trees represents a loss of control for property owners; increased climate concerns by reducing tree canopy; could specific species be allowed to be replanted in the right of way; if removal of tree causes damage to irrigation systems would village be responsible for repair; biodiversity and forestry guidelines for timing of removal for minimal wildlife impact; could only trees that are currently causing sidewalk or sewer damage be removed and not the entire 254 trees; speculation that the number of damaged sidewalks represent 2-5% of the total subdivision walkways; and allowing property owner to fix or repair sidewalk damage rather than tree removal.

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After all residents who signed the sign in sheet were heard, Mayor Spangler thanked residents for their participation and indicated Council would be voting on the recommendation at the next Village Council meeting on Tuesday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Hensley made a motion to adjourn with Mr. Brown second. Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

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Leslie Ferman, Acting Clerk-Treasurer

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Ryan Spangler, Mayor

Resident Attendees:

K. Harbert 775 Hammersmith Circle  
J. Greeno 747 Whisperwood  
R Wilson 552 Weatherstone  
T & S. Hewitt 616 Weatherstone  
M. Haynes 7315 Witherby Ct

A. Hornack 7319 Yunker  
B. Billow 608 Weatherstone  
A. Ruiz 560 Weatherstone  
T. Jendro 623 Weatherstone