

**TOWN OF HAMDEN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
1125 SHEPARD AVENUE
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518
203-278-2600**

**Final Decision of the Tree Warden
RE: Tree Removal—53 Lilac Avenue**

October 6, 2021

Background:

In April, 2021, the Town received a complaint through its online portal from an unidentified resident that a certain tree located on the east side of Lilac Avenue immediately abutting #53 Lilac Avenue was posing a public hazard due to its deteriorated condition. I was forwarded the complaint for investigation, and on or before August 31, I observed the condition of the tree and initially confirmed that:

1. The tree is located in the public right of way of Lilac Avenue, and
2. There appeared to be significant deterioration of the tree that may pose a threat to public safety, thereby warranting its removal.

Following my inspection, I consulted Geoff Harris, a professionally licensed Arborist, for his opinion. Upon his own inspection, Mr. Harris found the tree to be failing without any likelihood of restoration (Mr. Harris's written report is available from the Hamden Public Works Department).

Based on these facts, I determined that the current condition of the tree poses a threat to public safety, and that remedial measures, such as pruning and spraying, would not save the tree from failure. On or after August 31, 2021, pursuant to §23-59 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I posted a notice on the tree indicating that the tree would be removed.

Within (10) days of the posting of the notice, the Town of Hamden received an appeal of the decision from Ms. Karen Golden, of 49 Lilac Avenue.

Pursuant to statute, a hearing was held on the appeal on October 6, 2021, at which time I, Mr. Harris and Karen Golden presented information for review. Minutes of the hearing are available upon request from the Hamden Town Attorney's office.

Final Decision:

Based on my own observations, the assessment of the arborist as well as the testimony offered at the hearing, my final decision on this matter is that the tree shall be removed. This decision includes a stipulation that, following the tree's removal, a replacement tree in the vicinity of 53 Lilac Avenue will be scheduled by the Town for planting in the Spring of 2022.

Signed:



Chris Rhone, Tree Warden
Town of Hamden

Date:

