



LORI L. SPIELMAN  
First Selectman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187  
TEL 860-870-3100 FAX 860-870-3102

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

Selectmen  
DAVID E. STAVENS  
Deputy First Selectman

JAMISON J. BOUCHER  
MARY B. CARDIN  
JAMES M. PRICHARD  
RONALD F. STOMBERG  
JOHN W. TURNER

Town Administrator  
MATTHEW D. REED

## TREE WARDEN PUBLIC HEARING

January 24, 2024

Town Hall – Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall

*This PUBLIC HEARING was held pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 23-59 and was called in response to an objection raised regarding the removal of trees duly posted by the Ellington Tree Warden. Such trees are scheduled for removal as part of a parking lot and facility enhancement project at the Hall Memorial Library, 93-99 Main Street, Ellington. The meeting was recorded via audio recording device.*

## MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Thomas Modzelewski, Tree Warden/Director of Public Works; Lori Spielman, First Selectman; Jack Turner, Selectman; Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Sue Phillips, Director, Hall Memorial Library

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Coon, JR Russo & Associates, LLC (Town Engineer Firm)

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order at 6:01 PM by the Tree Warden, Mr. Modzelewski.
- II. TREE WARDEN COMMENTS: Mr. Modzelewski presented an overview of the approved parking lot expansion and site enhancement project at the Hall Memorial Library. The property was purchased on June 28, 2019, for the purpose of expanding the library parking lot. The new parking area will add 34 new parking spaces. The new design will reduce the frequency of motorists using the existing library parking lot as a cut-through from Main St. to Maple St. An engineered diagram / plan illustrating the project and identifying the six (6) trees scheduled for removal was projected on a large video screen at the front of the meeting hall. Mr. Modzelewski explained that the project included the construction of a parking lot, sidewalks and an outdoor seating area. Seven (7) new trees are scheduled to be planted and at least 52 other new plantings have also been proposed. Another, unrelated plan, proposes the planting of twenty-two (22) additional trees along Maple St. The meeting was then opened for public comment.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Kathleen Vaiciulis of 26 Florence Avenue, Ellington, questioned the Tree Warden regarding the types of trees being removed, who identified the trees scheduled for removal and asked if the replacement trees will be a native species. The speaker asked about the decision-making process and questioned alternatives explored when the proposed planting for the project were chosen. The speaker commented about the benefits of preserving native trees and the benefits of trees in general and voiced her concern over the destruction of the native habitat of local wildlife with the removal of existing trees. In closing, Ms. Vaiciulis asked the Tree Warden if the Town would consider planting native plants. The Tree Warden responded, "yes." As a final comment, Ms. Vaiciulis stated that she supported the addition of the parking area.
  - b. Lori Spielman, 179 Abbott Road, Ellington, responded to Ms. Vaiciulis' comments stating that the proposed plantings associated with the project were selected due to the manageability and appearance of the selected varieties. Ms. Spielman commented about the challenges of certain varieties regarding the invasiveness and inability to endure certain conditions. Ms. Spielman stressed the importance of choosing varieties that are able to endure over time taking into consideration local weather conditions and maintenance concerns. Ms. Spielman also produced a digital photograph of deterioration present in one of the trees scheduled for removal.
  - c. Dave Gerlach, 10 Suger Hill Road, Ellington, spoke in support of the additional parking. He commented that he has had to park across the street from the library on a number of occasions.
  - d. Sue Phillips, Director, Hall Memorial Library spoke in support of the site improvement project and explained her concern for the continued safety of library patrons. Ms. Phillips spoke about the damage that would likely occur to the root systems of the existing trees should they remain throughout the construction process. She commented that such damage would likely result in the later demise of the tree. Ms. Phillips supported consideration of the addition of some native trees.
- IV. CLOSING: At the conclusion of public comment, Mr. Modzelewski explained that after the close of the hearing he had three days to render a decision regarding the removal of the trees. When a decision was made, it would be posted, and the necessary parties notified.
- V. The hearing was closed and adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



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Matthew D. Reed



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF ELLINGTON **Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 23-59, the Ellington Tree Warden will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in the Nicholas J. DiCorleto, JR. Meeting Hall at the Ellington Town Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington.

This public hearing is being held in response to an objection filed regarding the proposed removal of six (6) trees upon the property of the Town in the vicinity of the Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main Street, Ellington. Such trees are scheduled for removal as part of the approved library parking lot expansion project.



**LEGEND**

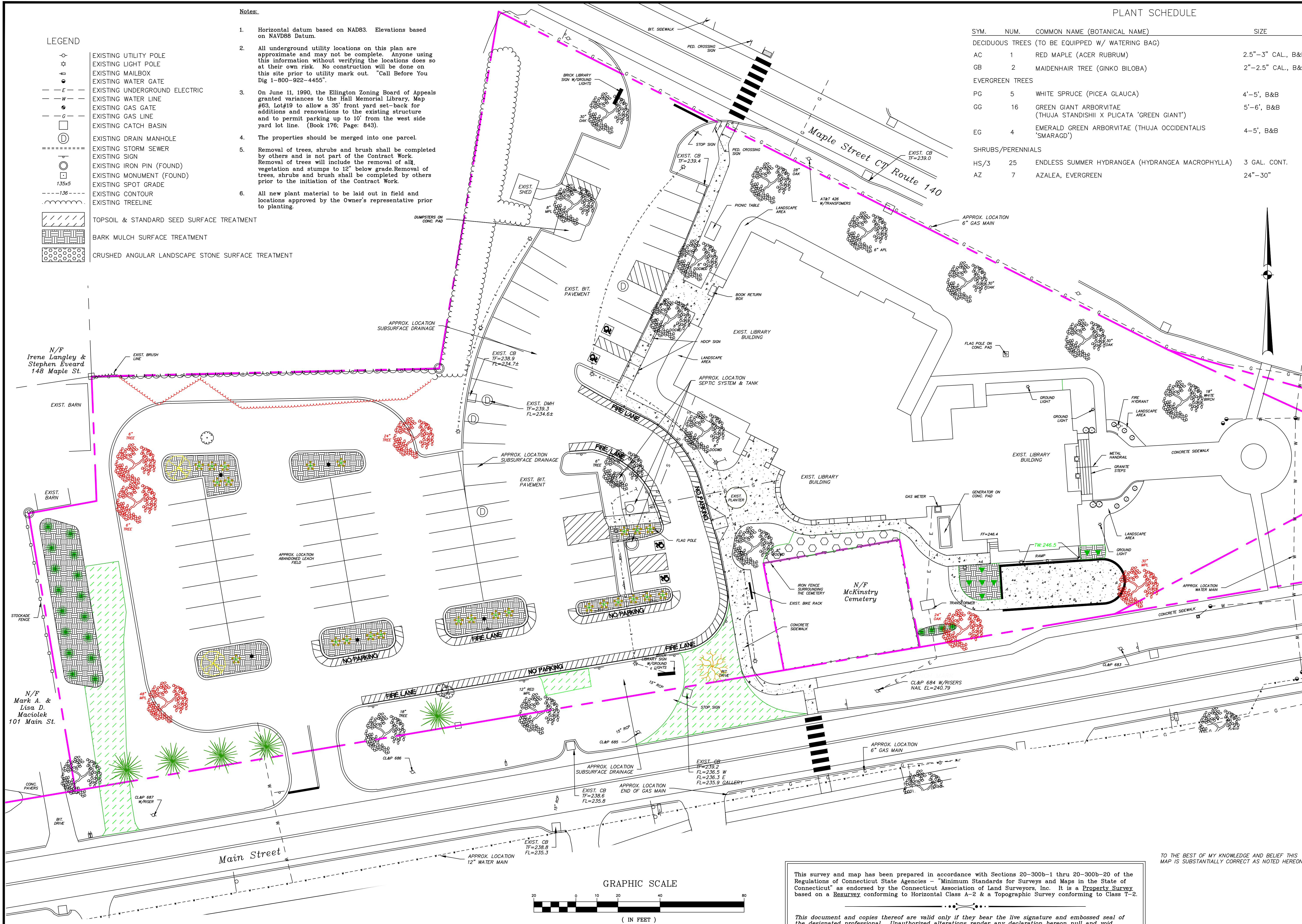
- EXISTING UTILITY POLE
- EXISTING LIGHT POLE
- EXISTING MAILBOX
- EXISTING WATER GATE
- EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING GAS GATE
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING DRAIN MANHOLE
- EXISTING STORM SEWER
- EXISTING SIGN
- EXISTING IRON PIN (FOUND)
- EXISTING MONUMENT (FOUND)
- EXISTING SPOT GRADE
- EXISTING CONTOUR
- EXISTING TREELINE
- TOPSOIL & STANDARD SEED SURFACE TREATMENT
- BARK MULCH SURFACE TREATMENT
- CRUSHED ANGULAR LANDSCAPE STONE SURFACE TREATMENT

**Notes:**

1. Horizontal datum based on NAD83. Elevations based on NAVD88 Datum.
2. All underground utility locations on this plan are approximate and may not be complete. Anyone using this information without verifying the locations does so at their own risk. No construction will be done on this site prior to utility mark out. "Call Before You Dig 1-800-922-4455".
3. On June 11, 1990, the Ellington Zoning Board of Appeals granted variances to the Hall Memorial Library, Map #63, Lot#19 to allow a 35' front yard set-back for additions and renovations to the existing structure and to permit parking up to 10' from the west side yard lot line. (Book 176; Page: 843).
4. The properties should be merged into one parcel.
5. Removal of trees, shrubs and brush shall be completed by others and is not part of the Contract Work. Removal of trees will include the removal of all vegetation and stumps to 12" below grade. Removal of trees, shrubs and brush shall be completed by others prior to the initiation of the Contract Work.
6. All new plant material to be laid out in field and locations approved by the Owner's representative prior to planting.

**PLANT SCHEDULE**

SYM.	NUM.	COMMON NAME (BOTANICAL NAME)	SIZE
<b>DECIDUOUS TREES (TO BE EQUIPPED W/ WATERING BAG)</b>			
AC	1	RED MAPLE (ACER RUBRUM)	2.5"-3" CAL., B&B
GB	2	MAIDENHAIR TREE (GINKO BILOBA)	2"-2.5" CAL., B&B
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>			
PG	5	WHITE SPRUCE (PICEA GLAUCA)	4'-5', B&B
GG	16	GREEN GIANT ARBORVITAE (THUJA STANDISHII X PLICATA 'GREEN GIANT')	5'-6', B&B
EG	4	EMERALD GREEN ARBORVITAE (THUJA OCCIDENTALIS 'SMARAGD')	4'-5', B&B
<b>SHRUBS/PERENNIALS</b>			
HS/3	25	ENDLESS SUMMER HYDRANGEA (HYDRANGEA MACROPHYLLA)	3 GAL. CONT.
AZ	7	AZALEA, EVERGREEN	24"-30"



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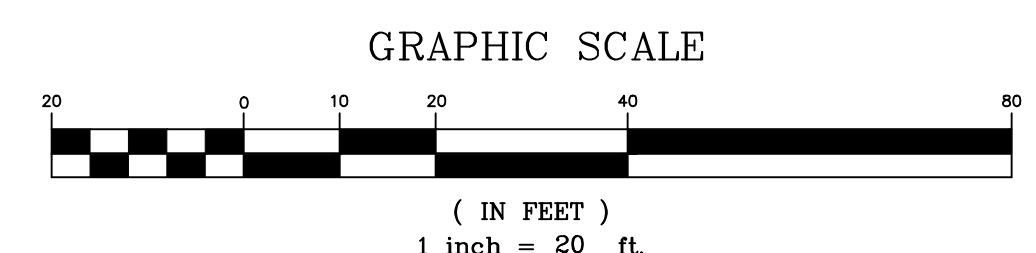
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	5-26-23	REDUCE SCOPE
2	9-22-23	REDUCE PLANTING BUFFER TO WEST

REVISIONS  
BY: LF/TAC    CHK: JEU

*Parking Lot & Sidewalk Improvements*  
**Hall Memorial Library**  
93 & 99 Main Street  
Ellington, Connecticut

Landscape Plan

DATE	5-11-23
SCALE	1"=20'
JOB NUMBER	2018-801
SHEET	6 of 9



This survey and map has been prepared in accordance with Sections 20-300b-1 thru 20-300b-20 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies - "Minimum Standards for Surveys and Maps in the State of Connecticut" as endorsed by the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, Inc. It is a Property Survey based on a Resurvey conforming to Horizontal Class A-2 & a Topographic Survey conforming to Class T-2.

*This document and copies thereof are valid only if they bear the live signature and embossed seal of the designated professional. Unauthorized alterations render any declaration hereon null and void.*

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THIS MAP IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT AS NOTED HEREON.