

Town of Falmouth, Maine



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Shade Tree Installation Issues – Route One Construction Project

Falmouth, ME – The Town of Falmouth has completed a damage assessment of the shade trees that were recently planted on Route One and has determined that the installation and inadequate watering resulted in the severe degradation of trees. Because of this, many of the trees not meet the town's specifications.

On July 8, town representatives met onsite with independent advisors Terrence J. DeWan Associates of Yarmouth and Tamarack Tree and Landscape Company of Kennebunk. The consultants recommended these immediate steps to mitigate the situation. They are:

1. All Katsura trees, with the exception of one tree, must be removed immediately.
2. Most Ginkgo trees appear to be doing well and should be watered per specifications.
3. Many Red Maples will be removed immediately. Some Red Maples will remain and will be monitored for new budding which could produce new leaves. In a few weeks, a decision will be made to save or replace these remaining trees.
4. All Elm trees are in poor condition and some may need to be removed immediately. Like the Red Maples, there appears to be new budding which could produce new leaves. Depending on growth in the upcoming weeks, some Elms may be saved.
5. After winter monitoring, some or all trees could be replaced in the spring.
6. All species will be watered at least 2-4 times each week with 10-15 gallons administered to each tree depending on the weather and current moisture level. Watering will consist of 10-15 gallons administered to each tree every time they are watered.
7. Notches will be installed on all stabilization stakes to ensure the stabilization lines do not slip off the stakes. Notches were not previously installed, resulting in some trees falling or leaning in an unacceptable position.
8. The town has requested its on-site inspecting engineering firm to monitor all watering.

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Town Manager Nathan Poore said that the Town is extremely disappointed with the tree conditions. "We have had multiple conversations with Sargent Corporation, general contractor for the Route One project," Poore said. "The tree issue was discussed last week, and again at a construction meeting on July 7. It is important for the public to know that we are working on the situation and are confident that the general contractor will resolve it."

Ian McCarthy, a representative from Sargent Corporation added, "We too are disappointed with the condition of the trees. We take pride in our work and will provide the town with a product that is expected. Replacement of material falls on us and we will honor that responsibility."

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