

**Stonehurst Board of Directors**  
**COMMON AREA TREE MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT POLICY**

Pertaining to Association-owned trees

Policy provisionally approved by the Board of Directors at the October 2, 2012 Board Meeting

**Policy Goal**

The aim of this Tree Maintenance and Replacement Policy (referred to later as “tree policy”) is to provide policy parameters for this Board and successive Boards regarding treatment, maintenance and replacement of trees to retain the beauty and integrity of the community. Our goal is to maintain Stonehurst as a community known for its beautiful, mature trees and spacious, lush common lawns.

This policy has direct bearing on budgeting and payment of expenses related to trees. It is recommended that funds for implementation of the tree policy be programmed into the Operating Budget based upon a rolling average of historical expenditures of routine tree replacement and maintenance over a five-year period. It is also recommended that expenditure of these programmed funds be authorized by the President of the Board upon the request of the Landscape Chair. The Board will be advised of expenditures on routine tree maintenance at each meeting.

**Routine Tree Maintenance**

Routine tree maintenance will be conducted on an ongoing basis as the need for such maintenance is identified. Routine maintenance includes:

- Use of certified arborist to at least annually assess the health and safety of the community’s trees.
- Removal of broken limbs and tree trimming to remove dead or dying limbs; limbs growing over houses, or too close to houses or parking spaces.
- Downed branches from winter or summer storm damage unless excessive damage of multiple trees occurs from a significant weather event. See note below.
- Fertilization of trees or pest/disease treatment of trees also is considered routine maintenance.

**Tree Removal and Replacement**

The removal of trees, unless felled by a storm, will be done only after a certified arborist has evaluated the health and potential longevity of a tree. In the event of removal, consideration will be given for the tree replacement in the vicinity of the removed tree unless the replacement would present or perpetuate overcrowding of other nearby trees or structures, sidewalks, and streets. With advice from the arborist, replacement trees will be selected based on their growth and location requirements (understory shade loving versus specimen large, shade tree or blooming tree, side and growth patterns for the space available, etc.). Nearby homeowners will be consulted regarding replacement trees prior to final selection. Effort will be made to maintain a diversity of tree species in the community so as to not encourage outbreaks of pests and disease. Tree removal and replacement will be funded through the Operating Budget unless excessive damage of multiple trees occurs from a significant weather event. See note below.

**Note:** In the event of excessive damage from a major storm, the Board President and/or the Landscaping/Tree chair will seek estimates for maintenance and then seek subsequent Board approval and authorization of Long-Term Maintenance funds prior to expenditure. The determination of routine versus excessive damage to trees will be made by the President with input from the Landscaping Chair.