

## Erin Zwirko

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**From:** Rhonda S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 2:21 PM  
**To:** Erin Zwirko  
**Subject:** Comments for 90 Main St project for planning board consideration

Erin-could you please forward to the planning board?  
Thank you,  
Rhonda

Dear Planning Board,

I am writing to express my concern of the 90 Main St project and to ask you to apply the tree protection standards recently endorsed by the Yarmouth Tree Committee. The Portland Street access to this project will put a heritage elm, many maple trees and possibly a pine tree in jeopardy. These tree protection standards put forth by the committee are broadly accepted guidelines used by industry prior to construction.

**As stated in the report-"The site cannot support the installation of a secure barrier around all of the critical root systems at the distance recommended for all of the trees that are planned to be preserved but provides reasonable protection balanced with the development goals."**

It seems the Portland Street access to the 90 Main St project doesn't support applying the tree protection standards, which means the trees will not be fully protected.

The mix of trees, open space and historical homes contribute to our town's character. I am proud that Yarmouth has been part of the TREE CITY USA program for decades, only behind Kennebunkport and Westbrook in duration.

Below is information on how communities become a Tree City:

**The Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes towns and cities across America that meet the standards of the TREE CITY USA program.**

**Nearly half of the trees in a typical city are on public property-along streets, in parks, and around buildings. The TREE CITY USA program is designed to recognize those communities that effectively manage their public resources, and to encourage the implementation of community tree management based on four TREE CITY USA standards. These four standards provide structure for a community forestry program, require that program to demonstrate success based on the judgment of the state forester's office, and provide for an awareness and appreciation of trees among the residents of the community.**

**Other TREE CITY USA cities in Maine are:**

- [Auburn](#) - 19 Years
- Bangor - 17 years
- Bath – 25 Years
- Brunswick - 5 Years
- Castine – 13 Years
- Dover-Foxcroft - 9 years
- Ellsworth - 1 Year
- Falmouth - 3 Years
- Farmington - 45 Years
- Hallowell – 20 Years

- [Kennebunkport](#) – 45 Years
- [Lewiston](#) – 19 Years
- Orono – 26 Years
- [Portland](#) – 42 Years
- Rockland - 3 Years
- Saco – 12 Years
- South Portland – 42 Years
- Veazie - 9 Years
- Westbrook – 45 Years
- Yarmouth – 43 Years

There are other benefits to urban forests. A thriving urban forest offers many advantages to communities.

- Trees help absorb the sounds of traffic in urban areas by 40%.
- Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler than those without.
- Trees reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds.
- Homes with trees have higher property values.
- Green space plays a major role in improving mental and physical health.
- Planting and maintaining trees absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change.



The photo above shows our town with a mix of buildings, open green space and trees. Each time we develop, we lose a bit of the character of our town. I hope the planning board will consider the environmental effects of losing more trees over the town's development goals in this 90 Main St project. There is decreased impact on the trees, if the only access to this new development is through Main St.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Rhonda Senger

## Erin Zwirko

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**From:** Tom Bell  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 3:39 PM  
**To:** Erin Zwirko  
**Subject:** Project at 90 Main Street (public comment)

Erin and members of the Yarmouth Planning Board. We live at 85 Main Street. Our only comment about the proposal at 90 Main Street is to make sure that the dumpster is not visible from Main Street. Looking at the plan on the website, it appears that there will be a stockade fence blocking the view of the dumpster. So that's good news.

Our region has an enormous shortage of housing, so any kind of new housing is welcome. This is a great spot for new housing. It's on public sewer and in walking distance to services.

These houses are probably going to be expensive, unfortunately. That's because there is not enough supply. That's how the market works. That's why we need to build more housing of all types, but especially multi-family housing.

Thank you, planning board members, for your service to the community. We love the new apartment buildings on Route One!

Tom and Svetlana Bell  
85 Main St.  
(207) 613-4361 (Tom)  
(207) 846-5844 (Svetlana)