

## Erin Zwirko

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**From:** Edward Ashley <edwardashley02@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2022 5:16 PM  
**To:** Erin Zwirko  
**Cc:** Rebecca Rundquist; tspresco@gmail.com; Lisa Small; Marge Titcomb; Peter Titcomb; Wendy Simmons; Nicholas Ciarimboli  
**Subject:** 90 Main Street Site Walk; Request for handout

Hi Erin- The HPC Design Manual, insofar as I currently have access to it, is the form of a pdf, and I lack the ability to select a single page and email it as an attachment. Could you please print out multiple copies and/or email to the planning board members, and the parties copied above, page 48 of the Design Manual, which is section D 6.5, "Trees and Other Plantings". There is a very useful diagram on the lower right of the page depicting a tree's root system, dripline, canopy, and indication of the most favorable watering zone, as well as good text in the "do's and don'ts" advice , which drive home the message about fencing off the dripline of trees to be saved, in order to avoid compaction of the soil around the roots. The diagram in particular makes it clear, and I am not always sure that the Board and the public are always truly understanding the point. If you could email that page to the Board members, so that they could see and absorb it before the site walk, as well as having printouts on hand at the site walk for distribution for those in attendance, it would be greatly appreciated, and I think would be very helpful, and could save a lot of discussion. Another reason for this request is to assist in beginning a dialogue between the Historic Preservation Committee and the Tree Committee, to explore where the interests and goals of the two committees may have some overlap, with room for coordination and possible collaborative effort. They may want to borrow an adaptation of this page of our Design Manual, and may have an interest in our concept of Historic Landscape Districts.

Thank you, I am looking forward to the Site Walk, which I hope and anticipate will be productive.

Ed

## D 6.5 Trees and Other Plantings

*Trees and other plantings are a key part of the visual character of a neighborhood or site, and they can shape and impact a space for hundreds of years. Consider the full lifespan and mature size of the tree or plant whenever a new planting is undertaken.*

### Recommended

D 6.5.1 Street trees are an important part of an historic District or site's character. Retain and protect historic street trees whenever possible.

D 6.5.2 Consider a plant's mature size when planting near an historic structure, to ensure root growth, canopy spread and drippings, and trapped moisture do not end up damaging historic material. For the survival, health, and longevity of trees, avoid compaction of the soil within the drip line, and clearly mark and fence off the drip line during construction.

D 6.5.3 For durability and shape consider offset of plantings from the street and plows and any impact from trimming due to utility lines.

### Avoid

D 6.5.4 Avoid planting front hedges or shrubbery that will visually separate the building from the street. Keep front hedges and shrubbery low, and do not obstruct the pedestrian view.

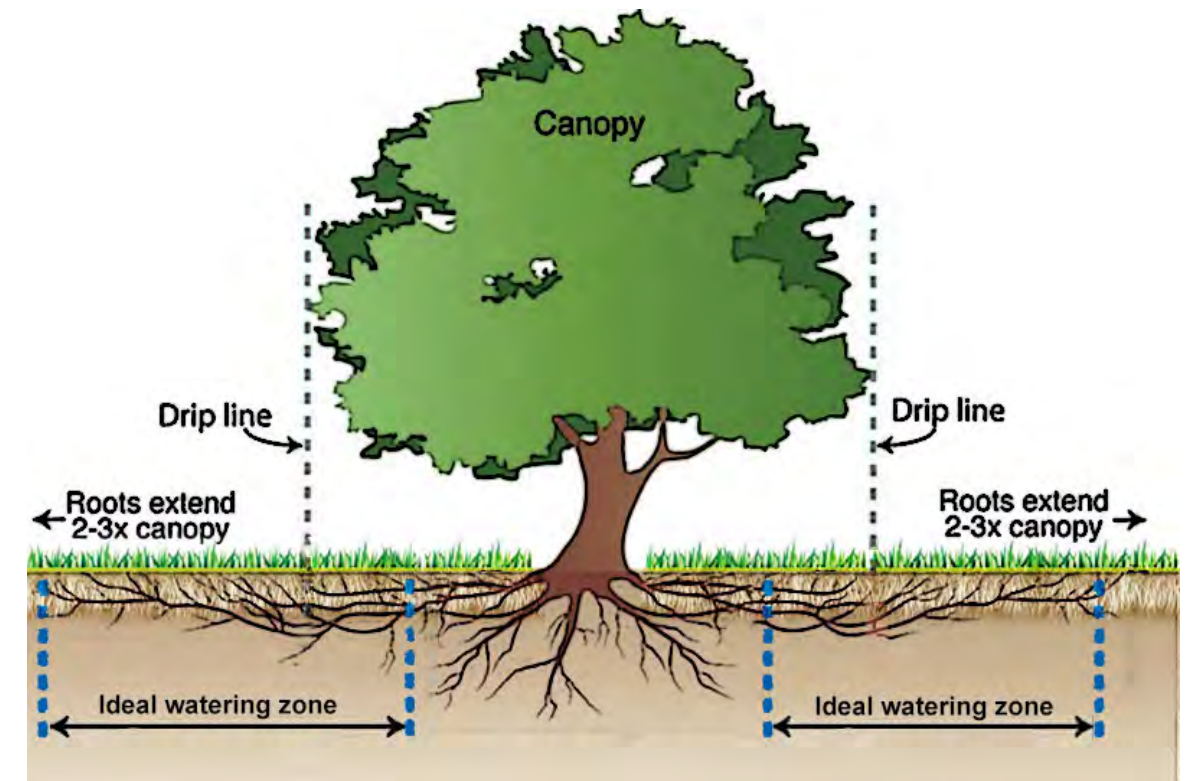
D 6.5.5 Do not permit ivy and other climbing plant species to grow directly onto building material, historic or otherwise, as this will cause damage and trap moisture. If such plantings are desired, install a trellis or other structure at least 12 inches away from the building face.

D 6.5.6 Avoid installing building structures or hardscapes beneath the canopy drip line of a tree, as this can cause damage to the root system, leading to the loss of the tree. This situation can cause costly complications for the foundation, structure, gutters and downspouts or hardscape.

D 6.5.7 Avoid planting trees and large shrubs too closely together, taking into account their 'ultimate' (meaning in ten years' time, not necessarily maximum) size. If that leaves unwanted spaces in the short term, use annuals and perennials as fill-in plantings for a more immediate and complete landscape look.



Historic trees help define the streetscape of Main street. The pedestrian experience would be greatly altered by their loss.



Tree diagram. Structures or hardscape below the drip line can compact the soil and damage the root system.