

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work has begun on the west side of Canada Street in the Village of Lake George. Crews from Kubricky Construction Company, low bidder, began removing sidewalks and trees within the work zones from McGillis Avenue to Amherst Street on the north.

The Village has received a \$563,930 grant to complete the work from the New York State Department of State under their Waterfront Revitalization Plan. Previous phases included the Lakefront Walkway and all streets terminating at the lake.

New sidewalks, pavers, handicap ramps, trees and extensive stormwater improvements are planned within the four-block area.

Mayor Robert Blais said that making a decision concerning removal of all the trees within the work zone was the most difficult and obviously drew much concern from the residents and property owners.

The Village commissioned a tree survey and inventory three years ago done by Randall Swanson from Cornell Cooperative Extension. The survey recommended removal of most trees on Canada Street at that time. All were in various stages of decline, dropping branches and infected by insects. Many of the trees' life expectancy was 3-5 years, and most had roots girdling the bases under the village planters.

The Village also consulted with Laurel Gailor of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Jason Smith of the Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as local tree expert Stan Hunt. All recommended complete removal during the present construction. Samples or scraping of the bark was analyzed as well and confirmed the declining health of the ash and maple trees.

Using Cornell University's manual recommended "urban trees for USDA plant hardiness", Village officials have selected thirty trees to replace the present 26 being removed. They include Winter King Hawthorn, Adirondack Crabapple, Canada Red Chokeberry, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry and Amur Maackia. All are resistant to host specific invasive species and suitable for planting in restricted spaces and curbside in city environments. Specifications call for the trees to be of 3" diameter with branches at least 6' from the base and highly resistant to salt and drought.

The Village will be installing ornamental tree grates in place of the current planters and continue their hanging baskets from utility poles, allowing for increased pedestrian sidewalk areas.

Construction is expected to be complete by May 26 and resumed in the fall on the last block north of Amherst Street. Major improvements in stormwater are included under the sidewalks capturing runoff and treating it prior to entering the lake.

Additional blocks may be done in the future, according to the Mayor, as funds become available.

Questions: Mayor Robert Blais 668-5771 or Supt. David Harrington 796-5543

Emailed to *Post Star*, *Adirondack Journal*, *Chronicle*, *Lake George Mirror*, Lake George Chamber, Jim Mathis
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