

# Committee Report on a Legislative Matter

**Report Regarding:** 15.377

**Zoning for Significant Trees**

**From:**

Comm. on Rules, Orders,  
Appointments & Ordinances

**Date of Meeting:** 11/9/2015

**Prepared By:** P. Powers

**Factors Considered:**

Recommendation:	
Move to Continue to the Next meeting.	
Yes	3
No	0
Absent	0
Abstain	0

The Committee reviewed the ordinance and considered the recommendations of the Planning Board as presented by Sr. Land Planner Carolyn Misch.

**Comments, Discussion & Debate:**

Councilor O'Donnell moved to recognize Sr. Land Planner Carolyn Misch who was present to review the changes to the Ordinance regarding significant trees. It was noted that the version that was attached to the agenda did not include changes that were proposed and agreed upon by the Planning Board and by this committee at its last meeting. Ms. Misch will review the document for missing language and provide to the Admin. Assistant. Once updated, this ordinance can go back to City Council for approval. Specifically, the sentence "The section is not meant to regulate work performed by a utility company in maintenance of its rights of way or in its maintenance repair or replacement of infrastructure that is unrelated to a development project requiring zoning relief" should be moved to section D. 5.

Other changes: capitalization of Warden; under E. remove the website address and replace with Planning Board.

Ms. Misch indicated that at the last meeting Councilor Murphy had indicated that he wanted better language to address continuity of ownership. Ms. Misch suggested that to address this, she recommends that the standards should apply if trees are removed within 12 months immediately prior to a site plan or zoning relief. This length of time would replace the current 18 month stipulation. (section C). Given the amount of time it takes to plan a project and get it in the approval pipeline, 12 months seems realistic.