

# Town of Milton

115 Federal St  
Milton, DE 19968



[www.milton.delaware.gov](http://www.milton.delaware.gov)

Phone: 302-684-4110

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June 4, 2014

To: All concerned  
Re: Downtown Trees

There was a meeting on March 28, 2014, between a few of the Town staff, two Town Officials and the Garden Club to explain a report received by Kyle Hoyd, Department of Agriculture, as it related to the conditions of the trees downtown, possibility of failure to occur and the planting site. (See letter to follow) This report explained the current trees were healthy, but were too tall and would grow to be too large for the planting site, which would cause curbing and sidewalk damage.

During the meeting at Town Hall, the Garden Clubs' vision was clear to keep the trees and the iron guard rails. Since this meeting, thoughts of how to proceed with the downtown trees were pondered. The direct issues had to be remedied, which were the trees growing into the buildings, the signage being blocked, the public works needing a solution for height (so they could have a starting point to maintain the trees), and the tree limbs being out of the way of both persons passing on the sidewalks and those parking on the street.

When looking at the future vision downtown, the desire of keeping the trees was greatly considered. Two of the recommendations from Mr. Hoyd were to remove and replace the trees. Keeping in mind the Garden Clubs' vision and finding a solution for better maintenance among our own staff was most important. The best solution was to give an aggressive pruning to all the trees. This would keep the trees downtown, but open up the sight of the buildings and signage, and remove limbs from hanging too low over the sidewalks and where cars need to park on the street.

Now that the trees have been pruned, the maintenance will be performed by the Public Works Department each fall.

If you should have further questions, please contact the Town Clerk or Public Works Supervisor at 302-684-4110.

Respectfully,

Kristy Rogers  
Town Clerk



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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September 25, 2013

Town of Milton  
Greg Wingo  
115 Federal St  
Milton DE 19968

Subject: Sidewalk Tree Assessment in Downtown Milton Area

Dear Mr. Wingo,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit the trees located in downtown Milton on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to inspect their condition. While there, I assessed the condition of the trees, possibility of failure to occur and the planting site.

During my inspection I noticed that many of the Japanese Zelkova trees are starting to outgrow their planting space. Many of them are interfering with signage, buildings and most importantly are only a few inches from the sidewalk/curb area. This tree species is a relatively large species that is more suitable for a larger growing environment. Zelkovas average height at maturity is between 50-80' tall and 50-75' wide. The majority of the trees appear to be healthy and are doing fairly well. However due to size constraints the trees will end up causing sidewalk and building damage in the near future. I also noticed that there are two dying trees, which appear to be in the European Beech family near the library and one Maple tree located in the parking lot bump out near the broad kill river walkway.

The Town of Milton has several options that DFS can assist with. 1<sup>st</sup>) Remove the dead and declining trees and properly prune the Zelkovas for clearance, 2<sup>nd</sup>) Remove all of the trees present and replant with a more suitable small to medium size tree that will not cause issues in the future, 3<sup>rd</sup>) Remove and replace all of the trees, but redesign how the downtown looks. This would involve establishing 2-4 bump outs where large trees could be placed and using smaller trees for the existing planting pits.

In my professional opinion, I feel that the Town of Milton should evaluate the options above and think about their vision for the downtown area. If the town needs further guidance or clarification on the options presented, please call me at (302) 698-4578 or email me at [kyle.hoyd@state.de.us](mailto:kyle.hoyd@state.de.us)

Sincerely,  


Kyle Hoyd  
Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator  
Delaware Forest Service