

## **February 18, 2018**

### **Policy on Trees**

#### **Anchorage Tree Removal Approval Required**

Anchorage's magnificent and mature trees are one of our community's greatest assets. Residents of Anchorage are contractually obligated to obtain permission from the Anchorage Board of Directors before removing trees or entering into a tree-cutting contract.

#### **A Request for Removing a Tree Is Required**

The Anchorage Community Declaration of Restrictions require that a request for approval be submitted to the architectural control committee (now under the jurisdiction of the board of directors) to remove any tree with a diameter over 6 inches. You agreed as part of your home purchase contract to comply with the Declaration of Restrictions and the Anchorage Community Association By-Laws.

As part of your request, we recommend that you include a sketch or drawing of the location of the tree(s) on your property. Pictures may be helpful.

#### **Requests Are Considered at Board Meetings Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Each Month**

The written request can be submitted to any board member or Anchorage's president. Your request will be reviewed at the next board meeting. Board meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, except in November when we have the annual meeting. Check the message board at the front entrance or the Anchorage website to verify time, date and place of the next meeting. Homeowners are encouraged to attend to present their request. In the event of a tree emergency, contact the president.

#### **Obtain a Written Recommendation from a Licensed Tree Expert**

Before submitting your request, you must obtain at least one written analysis from a licensed tree expert recommending removal. The report must explicitly provide information why removal is necessary. To obtain a list of licensed tree experts in Anne Arundel County, visit the Department of Natural Resources website at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx> and click on "Forests" "Licensed Tree Experts."

Alternatively, we highly recommend you consult with Anchorage's own Yilmaz Balci (1113 Mainsail Dr.), who is a tree expert himself.

#### **Property Owners within the 100-Foot Buffer Zone Require a County Permit**

Homeowners whose property is within the 100-foot shoreline buffer area by law must obtain an Anne Arundel County permit before any tree, shrub or other woody vegetation can be removed, and before the Anchorage board will consider a proposal for removal. The county's Standard Vegetation Management Plan application is available on the county website. This is a separate and additional requirement to obtaining Anchorage Community Association permission.

#### **Consult your Neighbors; Plant a Tree**

Good citizenship means sharing your plans with your neighbors and asking for their support. In addition, similar to county rules, the board asks that if your removal is approved, that you plant a new tree or shrub that is native to our area. To learn about native plants, visit <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/development/forms-and-publications/AANativePlants.pdf>

Thank you for being a responsible Anchorage resident and helping to maintain the beauty of our community.