

TREE POLICY OF ATHENS BOAT CLUB – February 2023

The trees in Athens Boat Club help create a beautiful, and comfortable environment which we want to maintain as much as reasonably possible. However, sometimes trees become unhealthy or need to be removed and/or trimmed for new development and building within the Club. The purpose of this document is to outline the Club policy on trees and tree removal and/or trimming.

1. The Club's goal is to retain as many trees as possible. Removal/trimming of trees within the Club requires Board approval as stated in the Bylaws (Article 15 – Rules and Regulations #26). If approval is not requested and granted, Leaseholder will be fined according to the Bylaws (Article 15 - Standard Penalties) on a per tree basis.
2. Trees may be considered for removal/trimming by the Board under any of the following conditions.
 - a. A significant portion of the tree has fallen due to Acts of God and the rest of the tree is in danger of falling, dying or its appearance is substantially diminished.
 - b. The tree is diseased with no hope of restoration as determined by a "certified *" Arborist.
 - c. The construction or renovation of a home requires trees to be removed because it is directly within the planned footprint of the home, driveway or septic system.
3. If trees are removed, it is required where possible that the Leaseholder replace the same number of trees with new similar trees (except Pine). Any tree pruning must adhere to the TCIA pruning standards and guidelines.
4. If neighbor/Leaseholder A's tree falls on a neighbor/Leaseholder B Lot, it is the responsibility of neighbor A and B to remove tree and repair damage that occurred on their respective properties, UNLESS neighbor A was notified in writing ahead of time that the tree appeared to be damaged, sick and/or was leaning and required attention. (see references below)
5. If neighbor A's tree limbs/branches/foliage are hanging over neighbor B's Lot, neighbor B may trim along their side of lot line. (see references below)
6. Notwithstanding #4 and #5 above – it is the Club's expectation that the neighbors with tree/shrub issues work together and collaborate on the best and most fair solutions based on the circumstances.
7. Leaseholders must submit Tree Removal Request Form to gain Board approval to remove/trim trees prior to work being performed.

References:

<https://www.peopleslawschool.ca/trees-and-neighbours/>

<https://www.findlaw.com/realestate/neighbors/conflicts-involving-trees-and-neighbors.html>

<https://treeinspection.com/advice/you-and-your-neighbors/40-my-neighbor-s-tree-looks-dead-and-i-m-worried-about-it>

<https://www.kiplinger.com/personal-finance/insurance/home-insurance/604492/worried-your-neighbors-tree-will-fall-on-your>

https://www.nowackhoward.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Dont_Trip_Over_Georgia.pdf

***Arborist Certifications**

- ISA Certified Arborist (International Society of Arboriculture)
- TCIA Accreditation (Tree Care Industry Association)
- ASCA Member (American Society of Consulting Arborists)



Tree Removal Request Form

No living tree with a diameter greater than three inches that is on any Leasee Lot, Club or Corp property may be cut down and/or trimmed without the prior expressed written permission of the Board. Please complete and submit this request along with a drawing to show existing trees and shrubs clearly indicated to be removed/trimmed. Also, all subject trees should be clearly marked or tagged so they can be easily identified.

Attach diagram of lot, or draw on the back of this request that shows the home and location of the subject tree(s) with distances denoted in feet.

Name _____

Lot number _____

Address _____

Primary Phone # _____

Alternate Phone # _____

Email Address _____

1. How many trees are you asking to remove? _____

2. Type of tree(s) _____ Diameter(s) _____

Approx Height _____

3. Reason for removal? _____

4. Was an arborist consulted? (If yes, attach consultation) Yes No (circle one)

5. Who will remove the tree(s)? _____

6. Using a Contractor? Are they: Licensed/Bonded/Insured? (Circle all that apply)

7. Describe how tree debris will be removed _____

8. Will stump(s) be removed? Yes No (circle one)

9. Do you plan to re-plant to replace the removed tree(s)? Yes No (circle one)

10. Have your neighbors been informed of this request? Yes No (circle one)

I state that I have read and understand the Athens Boat Club's rules and regulations relative to tree removal and /or tree limb removal. I further affirm that I (and/or my Contractors) will perform work within the framework of rules and regulations governing Leasees responsibilities when hiring Contractors.

Sign _____ Date _____

Approval Date _____ Approved with Modifications (Date) _____

Denial Date _____ Reason _____