

Tree Removal in the Shoreland Zone Summary

The information below is summarized from the Friendship Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. For more detailed information please refer to the Ordinance.

1. Cutting within 75' for setback from the normal high waterline.
 - a. No cleared openings greater than 250sq. ft. in the canopy.
 - b. A "well distributed stand of trees" must be maintained:
 - i. At least 16 points within every 25'x 50' rectangular area.
 1. 2 – less than 4-inch DBH tree = 1 point
 2. 4 – less than 2-inch DBH tree = 2 points
 3. 8 – 12-inch DBH tree = 4 points
 4. Greater than 12 inches DBH = 8 points

DBH = Diameter at Breast Height, or diameter measured at 4.5' above ground level.

- c. Additionally, there must be 5 saplings less than 2-inch DBH within every 25'x50' area.
 - d. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed.
 - e. Pruning the bottom 1/3 of a tree's branches is allowed.
 - f. Existing vegetation under 3' in height, including leaf litter and forest duff layer, cannot be cut, covered, or removed.
 - i. A cleared six-foot meandering path to access the water is allowed
2. Cutting beyond the 75' setback from the normal high waterline.
 - a. No cleared openings greater than 10,000sq. ft. or 25% of the total lot located within the "shoreland zone", whichever is greater.
 - i. Shoreland zone is 250' from high waterline
 - b. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten year period.
3. Dead / Hazardous trees and replanting.
 - a. Dead, hazardous or storm damaged trees can be removed without replanting as long as:
 - i. A new lawn or permanently cleared area is not created. Do not remove the stump.
 - ii. New growth is present practicable to where tree was removed.
 - iii. Any provisions from sections 1 & 2 are not violated.

- iv. Tree removed was not greater than 8 inches in diameter and over 4.5ft high.
 - b. New growth must be at least 2 inches in diameter and 4.5ft tall.
 - c. Replacement trees must be native species, 2 inches in diameter and at least 4ft high.
- 4. Before removing any trees in the Shoreland Zone you must contact the CEO for approval. The CEO will require a write up showing each plot with the trees existing (diameter and point value included), which trees will be removed, the points left after removal for each plot and photos before/after. Dead or hazard trees still need approval but only photos before/after will be needed.