

## Application and Guidelines for tree cutting in the Shore Land Overlay District Waterfront Buffer

The following are procedural guidelines to cut trees within the 50' Waterfront Buffer.

A waterfront plan and inventory, along with a cutting and planting plan, must be prepared, submitted and approved before cutting or felling within the Waterfront Buffer, including dead/diseased trees.

### Application Instructions and Regulations:

To facilitate the implementation of this ordinance please observe the following:

1. A tree-cutting request shall include a plot plan of the site showing all existing trees and saplings in each 50' by 50' segment within 50' of the reference line. The plot plan shall clearly indicate the points for each tree or sapling and the total points for each segment, which tree(s) the property owner intends to remove, their points and the resulting points for each segment if the trees were removed (see following page for a sample plot plan). This plan shall also indicate the type, points, and location of replacement plantings if required. New plantings shall be native species, refer to the New Hampshire Native Shoreland and Riparian Buffer Plantings list for examples.
2. This Application grants a Town Representative to contact you and arrange a visit to the site to review conditions; if the proposed cutting shall reduce the points within a defined segment below 50, a recommendation to the Conservation Commission shall be made.
3. No cutting shall occur until after approval of the Application and the property owner has been notified of the approval and conditions thereof, if any.
4. For definitions of Waterfront Buffer, Reference Line, Shore Line, Saplings, Shrub, groundcover, etc. please refer to the New London Zoning Ordinance and the New Hampshire Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act RSA 483-B.

### 5. Zoning Regulations:

Below are excerpts from Article XVI G. 2 of the New London Zoning Ordinance

2.b. Rocks and stumps and their root systems shall be left intact in the ground.

2.c. Starting from the northerly or easterly boundary of the property, and working along the shoreline, the Waterfront Buffer shall be divided into 50 by 50 foot segments. Within each segment a minimum combined tree and sapling score of at least 50 points shall be maintained. If for any reason there is insufficient area for a full segment, the number of points required to be maintained in that partial segment shall be proportioned to that required for a full segment.

(1) Tree and sapling diameters shall be measured at 4'-6" above ground and are scored as follows:

#### Diameter Score:

- 1 inch to 6 inches: 1 point
- Greater than 6 inches to 12 inches: 5 points
- Greater than 12 inches: 10 points
- Shrubs and groundcover plants shall be scored as follows:
  - Four square feet of shrub area: 1 point
  - Ground cover, 50 square feet (NOTE: does not include lawn) 1 point

Note: Shrub and groundcover shall count for at least 15 points and not more than 25 points in each full segment.

(2) Dead, diseased, or unsafe trees or saplings (as determined by the Town Representative or the Conservation Commission) shall not be included in scoring, thus not included in the tree inventory count.

(3) If the total tree and sapling score in any 50 by 50 foot segment exceeds 50 points, the removal of trees, saplings and shrubs shall be permitted as long as the score for the remaining trees, saplings and shrubs in that segment does not total less than 50 points and is accompanied by a complete application. The remaining scores in partial segments shall be treated similarly.

(4) The Conservation Commission may authorize the removal of trees and saplings on a segment of a property having less than the required minimum score of 50 points, as long as trees, saplings and shrubs are replanted in sufficient quantity to equal or exceed the score that existed prior to the removal activity. The Conservation Commission shall not approve a cutting request that results in less than the required minimum score of 50 points or less than the score that existed prior to the filed request. Sample plot plan with 50' by 50' segments (tree cells) and trees identified by points.

**Below is a sample plot plan with 50' by 50' segments (tree cells) and trees identified by points.**

INSERT OUR CURRENT  
IMAGE HERE

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Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Map/Lot: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Visited By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Site Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conforming Tree Count:**

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Town Representative ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Review date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Denied: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Conforming Tree Count:**

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Conservation Commission ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Review date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Denied: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes (what changed):

1. Reference to a Town Representative
2. Conforming application approved by Town representative (not Planning Board)
3. Review moved from Planning Board to Conservation for Non-Conforming applications only
4. Reference to DES for native species/plantings
5. Reference to NL Zoning & RSA 483-B for definitions.
6. XVI Shoreland Overlay District section G 2 needs to be altered
7. XVI Shoreland Overlay District section G 4 needs to be altered
8. XVI Shoreland Overlay District section G needs 'shrub and groundcover', per above, added

CURRENT TREE CUTTING Application



Town of New London  
PLANNING BOARD

375 Main Street  
New London, NH 03257

Guidelines for tree cutting in the Shore Land Overlay District Waterfront Buffer

The New London Planning Board offers the following procedural guidelines for shorefront residents seeking approval to cut trees within the 50' Waterfront Buffer.

A waterfront plan and inventory, along with a cutting and planting plan, must be prepared for, submitted to, and approved by the New London Planning Board before cutting or felling any tree within the Waterfront Buffer, including dead trees.

The New London Zoning Ordinance (Article XVI G. 2. c (3)). states:

“If the total tree and sapling score in any 50 by 50 foot segment exceeds 50 points, then the Planning Board may authorize the removal of trees, saplings and shrubs as long as the score for the remaining trees, saplings and shrubs in that segment does not total less than 50 points...”

To facilitate the implementation of this ordinance please observe the following steps:

1. A tree-cutting request shall include a plot plan of the site showing all existing trees and saplings in each 50' by 50' segment within 50' of the reference line, clearly indicating the points for each tree or sapling and the total points for the segment, which trees the property owner intends to remove and their points and the resulting points for each segment if the trees were removed (see over for a detailed explanation and sample plot). This plan shall also indicate the type, points, and location of replacement plantings if needed. New plantings shall be native species, such as white pine, hemlock, high- bush blueberries, etc.
2. A representative of the Town must visit the site to verify plan conditions (contact Zoning Administrator at 526-4821 x16, [zoning@nl-nh.com](mailto:zoning@nl-nh.com) to arrange a site inspection). Based on this visit, the Town representative makes a recommendation to the Planning Board on the proposed tree-cutting plan. This step is very important because the Planning Board is inclined to follow the recommendations of the Town representative.
3. No cutting shall occur until after the Planning Board has approved the plan and the property owner has been notified of the approval and conditions thereof, if any.

Prop. Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Map/Lot: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Visited By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Site Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Planning Board Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Denied: \_\_\_\_\_

**Excerpt from Article XVI G. 2. C of the New London Zoning Ordinance March 10, 2009**

2.c. Starting from the northerly or easterly boundary of the property, and working along the shoreline, the Waterfront Buffer shall be divided into 50 by 50 foot segments. Within each segment a minimum combined tree and sapling score of at least 50 points shall be maintained. If for any reason there is insufficient area for a full segment, the number of points required to be maintained in that partial segment shall be proportioned to that required for a full segment.

(1) Tree and sapling diameters shall be measured at 4½ feet above ground and are scored as follows:  
Diameter Score:

- **1 inch to 6 inches: 1 point**
- **Greater than 6 inches to 12 inches: 5 points**
- **Greater than 12 inches: 10 points**

(2) Dead, diseased, or unsafe trees or saplings (as determined by the Planning Board) shall not be included in scoring.

(3) If the total tree and sapling score in any 50 by 50 foot segment exceeds 50 points, then the Planning Board may authorize the removal of trees, saplings and shrubs as long as the score for the remaining trees, saplings and shrubs in that segment does not total less than 50 points. The remaining scores in partial segments shall be treated similarly.

(4) The Planning Board may authorize the removal of trees and saplings on a segment of a property having less than the required minimum score of 50 points, as long as trees, saplings and shrubs are replanted in sufficient quantity to equal or exceed the score that existed prior to the removal activity. The Planning Board shall not approve a cutting request that results in less than the required minimum score of 50 points or less than the score that existed prior to the request being filed.

**Sample plot plan with 50' by 50' segments (tree cells) and trees identified by points**

