

## ***IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT TREES AND VEGETATION IN CAPE MAY POINT***

This is an important time of year to remind everyone that the Borough of Cape May Point considers our trees and vegetation so important that we have “award winning” zoning ordinances to protect them.

Our ordinances have won awards from NJ Audubon Society and the NJ Association of Environmental Commission for our stewardship of the environment.

If you are planning to do any landscape work, or cut down trees, it is important to check with our Zoning Officer *before you start* your project in order to avoid stiff penalties.

Excerpts from our Code Book:

**Article II Definitions:** “Vegetation shall mean plants of the area, including, but not limited to, flowers, shrubs and trees.”

**“Ordinance 150-21 Landscaping and Vegetation Plan”:** a. *Intent.* It is the intent of the Borough of Cape May Point to require a Landscape and Vegetation Plan for several reasons: To continue its “history of coexistence of human habitation with natural habitat that supports the legendary concentrations of migrant and resident wildlife”. The trees on both private and public lands are crucial to the continued ability of the Borough to support a “world-class migration spectacle”. The maintenance and replacement of the excellent variety of trees is necessary to retain “what is effectively an arboretum and a premier nature sanctuary.”

“Additionally, there are social, environmental and economic benefits: Trees alter the environment by moderating climate (thus reducing energy costs), improving air quality (by absorbing carbon dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide), conserving water, and increasing the value of a property.”

“For purpose of calculating the area of removal or disturbance of vegetation, trees shall be considered to cover an area equal to that encompassed by their drip line.”

So, as you can see just from the above excerpts many years and much expertise went into the Landscape and Vegetation Ordinance.

The most urgent phone calls we get at the Municipal Building are about someone taking down a tree! Everyone here loves the trees and the character they add to our little corner of the world.

Be wise and make an appointment with John McGraw, Zoning Official (609-884-8468x16 or [jmcgraw@capemaypoint.org](mailto:jmcgraw@capemaypoint.org)) before doing any landscape work to avoid problems later on with fines or the disdain of fellow Cape May Pointers!