

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22,
TREES AND SRUBS, OF THE CODE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY,
1968, TO AMEND THE STANDARDS FOR
OBTAINING A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT.**

WHEREAS, the removal, cutting, and destruction of trees within Princeton Township results in increased drainage control costs, increased soil erosion, increased buildup of atmospheric carbon and dust, decreased fertility of the soil, a decrease in the overall tree canopy, and impacts the general health, safety, welfare, and well-being of the residents of Princeton Township as well as the integrity of the natural environment and processes upon which the residents of Princeton Township depend; and,

WHEREAS, trees are declared to be important cultural, ecological, scenic and economic resources; and

WHEREAS, trees allow for the conservation of energy by providing, *inter alia*, shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the Princeton Township Code (“Code”) be amended to further protect the trees within the municipality; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton as follows:

1. Section 22-6, Definitions, of Chapter 22, Trees and Shrubs, of the Code is supplemented and amended as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

Section 22.6. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

- (a) *Clear-cutting* shall mean the removal or destruction of twenty percent or greater of the trees having a DSH of [eight] six inches or more for shade trees or a height of ten feet or more for evergreen and ornamental trees on any lot within a twelve month period.
2. Section 22-8, Trees requiring permit before removal, of Chapter 22, Trees and Shrubs, of the Code is supplemented and amended as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

Section 22-8. Trees requiring permit before removal.

It shall be a violation of this article for any person to remove or otherwise destroy any tree as set forth in this section, or to cause or permit the same to be done by any third party contractor or subcontractor, without first obtaining a permit or approval as provided hereinbelow. The following acts are hereby regulated and shall require a tree removal permit[.]:

- (a) Clear-cutting of twenty percent or greater of [the] trees having a DSH of [eight] six inches or more for shade trees or a height of ten feet or more for evergreen and ornamental trees on any lot within a twelve month period.
 - (b) Removal of or otherwise destroying a:
 - (1) Tree with DSH of sixteen inches or more;
 - (2) Shade t[T]ree with a DSH of [eight] six inches or more [and] with a canopy extending over a township right-of-way; or an evergreen or ornamental tree that is ten feet or higher with a canopy extending over a township right-of-way; and
 - (3) Tree located within a township right-of-way.
3. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, section, paragraph, sentence or clause is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.
4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage, publication, and the filing of a copy of same with the Mercer County Planning Board, all of which is required by law.

Additions in text are indicated by underlining, deletions by {brackets} except that underlined catchwords are not necessarily additions.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a meeting of Princeton Township Committee held on February 27, 2012 and will be further considered for final passage after a public hearing thereon at a meeting of said Township Committee to be held at the Princeton Township Municipal Complex, 400 Witherspoon Street on March 12, 2012 which begins at 7:00 p.m.



Kathleen Brzezynski
Deputy Clerk