

TOWN OF Rome
OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT
8 Mercer Road
Rome, Maine 04963
397-3293
January 2012

Cutting Trees in the Shoreland Zone

1. Cutting within 100' (75' for streams) setback from the normal high waterline

- a. No cleared openings greater than 250ft² in the canopy
- b. A “well distributed stand of trees” must be maintained:
 - i. This is defined as having 24 points (16 point in stream protection) within every 25' x 50' rectangular area.
 - 1. The point system for trees is as follows
 - a. 2-4 inch DBH tree = 1 point
 - b. 4-8 inch DBH tree = 2 points
 - c. 8-12 inch DBH tree = 4 points
 - d. 12+ inches DBH tree = 8 points

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

- ii. In addition to the points system listed above, at least 5 saplings less than 2" DBH must be maintained within each 25' x 50' rectangular area
- c. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten year period
- d. Existing vegetation under 3', including leaf litter and the forest duff layer, cannot be cut, covered, or removed
- e. Pruning the bottom 1/3 of a trees branches is allowed
- f. One 6 foot wide meandering path is allowed per lot to access the water

2. Cutting beyond the 100' setback from the normal high waterline

- a. No cleared openings greater than 10,000ft² or 25% of lot located within the shoreland zone, whichever is greater
- b. Cleared opening of 5,000ft² or greater must be separated by a 100' buffer
- c. The total footprint area of all structures, parking lots, and other *non-vegetated* surfaces cannot exceed 20% of the total lot located within the shoreland zone.
- d. 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

- a. Unquestionably dead:
 - i. If a tree is unquestionably dead (no leaves, no bark, deep cracks, top broken off, etc.), take pictures, remove the tree properly, and replant as specified below (if needed).
- b. Alive, but hazardous
 - i. If a tree is not unquestionably dead, but still viewed as “hazardous”, have a licensed Maine forester or arborist inspect the tree and submit a letter to the Code Enforcement Office including:
 1. why they think the tree is hazardous
 2. what it is a hazard to
 3. Their forester or arborist license number
 4. pictures of the tree
 - ii. After the above letter has been submitted, remove the tree properly and replant as specified below (if needed).

4. Tree replanting

- a. If the removal of a dead or hazardous tree violates any of the provisions listed above under Sections (1) or (2), trees must be replanted.
- b. Replanting Plan
 - i. Submit a replanting plan to the Code Office which includes:
 1. A brief sketch of the lot
 2. The location of the removed tree(s)
 3. The location and species of the tree(s) to be replanted.
 4. Sign and date the plan.
- c. For each tree removed below the minimum stocking (outlined in section (1) and (2) above), trees will need to be replanted in the quantity specified below:
 - i. For each tree removed between 1-9” DBH, replant one (1) tree
 - ii. For each tree removed between 10-19” DBH, replant two (2) trees
 - iii. For each tree removed greater than 20” DBH, replant three (3) trees
- d. Trees to be replanted must be;
 - i. Of a native species
 - ii. A minimum of 54 inches tall
 - iii. Planted within 10’ of the stump of the removed tree
 - iv. No closer than 5’ to other newly planted trees
 - v. Maintained for a minimum of 3 years.
- e. Other things to consider when replanting
 - i. Document the replanting by taking pictures and saving receipts from the newly planted trees (if applicable)
 - ii. D.E.P. permits
 1. For activities within 75’ of a water body, a D.E.P permit may be needed. Check with your local office for details