



Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2021

CONTACT

Karen Doherty 781-894-4759

Dennis Fazio, Town of Wakefield, Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) has presented its 20th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Dennis Fazio, Town of Wakefield.

President Arthur Goodhind presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Fazio at the association's 108th annual meeting on February 16, 2021. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually on the Zoom platform.

Dennis Fazio serves as the Cemetery, Forestry and Parks Division Supervisor for the Town of Wakefield, Massachusetts. In this capacity he manages cemetery grounds, over one hundred acres of parks, and all the public trees within the community. He began his career with Wakefield in 1996 and became Division Supervisor in 1998.

Mr. Fazio is valued for his commitment, vision, and leadership within the Department of Public Works and for his collaborations with many community organizations and programs, including Trees for Wakefield, the Wakefield Town Employees Federal Credit Union, the Massachusetts Cemetery Association, and the Boys and Girl Scouts of America. Mr. Fazio was recently elected to the Town of Wakefield Retirement Board.

Raised in Wakefield, Mr. Fazio began his forestry career as a young man at the age of fourteen working with a local arborist and tree care company. He later earned a degree from Salem State University in human resources with a concentration in psychology, but he knew his heart belonged in the outdoors. Today he plays an important role in preserving and enhancing the outdoor space of his community and is committed to providing a positive outdoor experience for Wakefield residents and visitors.

Mr. Fazio and his team and partners together manage the Town of Wakefield's CommuniTree program. This initiative offers sponsorship opportunities for individuals or organizations to contribute funds that supplement the ongoing efforts of the town to plant trees and improve the tree planting/tree removal ratio. In addition to this year's MTWFA award, Mr. Fazio has been recognized regionally as a past recipient of the Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award from the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Dennis Fazio is most deserving of the Seth H. Swift Award and continues to set the standard for community service.

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association is the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, founded in 1913 for the protection and preservation of trees. The position of tree warden is a municipal one, mandated under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, with the charge to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

The Tree Warden of the Year award was created in 2002 to honor the late Seth H. Swift, a longtime tree warden for West Springfield and an active member of the association. For more information about the position of tree warden and about the association, visit www.masstreewardens.org.

The MTWFA plans to hold an early fall, commemorative tree planting in Wakefield in honor of Mr. Fazio's award. Details will be posted on www.masstreewardens.org.