

# CITY OF KINGSTON



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## ZONING WORKING GROUP

### MINUTES IN RED

January 16, 2026

Zoning Working Group

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### 1. Tree Legislation (with guest Brent Knepper, Urban Forester)

The Zoning Working Group met with the Urban Forester to review proposed tree ordinance legislation. The Urban Forester reviewed corresponding proposed changes to the form-based code to ensure there is consistency with the tree ordinance and ultimately, that the street design standards lead to the formation of a real tree canopy. Changes discussed:

- Clarifying the distance between trees if there is a difference between tree size (e.g., large vs medium vs small)
- Adding a maximum distance between trees to ensure the formation of a tree canopy in all scenarios.

A future possible discussion item is the impact of utility lines on the city's street design standards and tree canopy.

- ### 2. Battery Storage Systems Communication **NOT REVIEWED THIS MEETING**
- ### 3. Waivers for fence heights (Request from Tanya) **NOT REVIEWED THIS MEETING**

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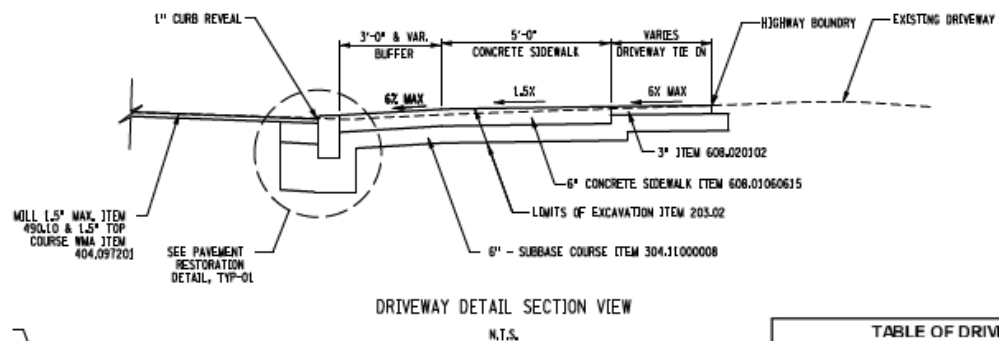
- a. 111 Downs ([https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8399/10476/11820/11824/70110/October\\_2025\\_-\\_PB\\_Minutes.pdf](https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8399/10476/11820/11824/70110/October_2025_-_PB_Minutes.pdf))
- b. 106 Downs ([https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8399/10476/11820/11824/70110/November\\_2025\\_-\\_PB\\_Minutes.pdf](https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8399/10476/11820/11824/70110/November_2025_-_PB_Minutes.pdf))

Previous discussion about fence heights:

- a. [Code language](#) suggests that fencing along a street facing property is limited to 4 feet
- b. If set back slightly, does that mean a fence can then be 8'?
- c. Based on October discussion, suggest: "All garden walls and fences **within or behind the build-to-zone** shall be a maximum of four (4) feet in height."

#### 4. Follow up from November meeting **NOT REVIEWED THIS MEETING**

- a. Curb Cuts and slopes
  - i. Response from City Engineer: Driveway running slope variation comes in based on width of snow storage strip. There are some maximum slopes we try to avoid exceeding, here labeled 6% maximum but we have had to go steeper in some cases.



- ii. The basic sidewalk requirement under the PROWAG would be minimum 4-ft wide with maximum cross slope 2.0% (here labeled

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1.5% in order to provide a factor of safety in construction). Material is generally concrete 6" thick minimum.

- b. Limiting the size of accessory structures