

Agenda Topic #6

Clearcutting in Access/Viewing Corridors

-Background Information presented by Michele Sadauskas-

I received a call from Ted Rulseh, President of the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association, asking if our Committee would be willing to discuss the topic of clearcutting in viewing and access corridors of lakefront properties. June's meeting is to introduce the topic to committee members and for the public to have an ability to provide comment on the topic. Twenty-six emails on the topic were received by email and have been shared with Committee.

In 2021/2022 our committee worked diligently on a *definition of vegetation* for the P&D Committee. When we began that process, there was some discussion about the cutting of trees in the viewing and access corridor (see attachment titled '#6 background information for June CUW', option #4), but committee choose to stay focused on "defining vegetation".

Ultimately, our 'definition of vegetation' was not accepted by P&D. However, our Dept. would welcome a re-examination of the allowance of clearcutting in our Shoreland Protection Ordinance (SPO). The loss of tree cover, especially the loss of large mature trees, can have negative effects on water quality, aesthetics, and shoreland habitat. Currently, Vilas County's SPO contains language that prohibits clearcutting, but allows selective cutting of trees within the viewing corridor.