

Last article I explained the description and the duties of the Swanton Planning Commission. This week I would like to share with you information regarding the construction of accessory buildings.

An accessory building is an outdoor building such as a barn, shed, or detached garage. Accessory buildings are allowed under the current zoning codes, but there are some rules and regulations that residents should be aware of that will ensure you are in conformance with village standards.

Typically sheds are to be located in the back yard ONLY, and set back a minimum of five feet from the property line. They are also required to be ten feet away from any adjacent structure whether on your property or your neighbors. There is a limit of ONE per lot. Presently, there are numerous sheds that are too close to an adjacent structure, too close to the property line, not in the back yard, or more than one on a lot. As the Planning Commission continues reviewing current codes, enforcement of present ordinances will increase.

In addition, permits are required and fees vary with the type and cost of the project. It is recommended that you bring a scaled drawing to the Village for review when you apply for your permit.

For further details on location, construction and permitting, please see the codified ordinances. They are available for download on the village website, www.villageofswantonohio.us, or call village hall and ask for the village administrator.

The village is currently reviewing quotes for hazardous tree removal. As trees are removed, new ones will be planted and the tree commission is determining which species are most suitable for our soil types and street landscape. We will also be offering tree seminars as we progress in our knowledge. We will announce those opportunities when we confirm details. The tree commission returns to the classroom this Wednesday and Thursday to continue our urban forestry education.