

SEPTA IS PRESSED TO REPLACE TREES \

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Residents of Cliff Terrace in Wyncote were scheduled to meet with Cheltenham Township officials and SEPTA representatives Friday to discuss how to replace a row of trees that SEPTA workers cut down. The trees had screened the parking lot at the Jenkintown-Wyncote Train Station.

If SEPTA's offer isn't satisfactory, Peter Wieck - who now has a view of cars, floodlights and train tracks instead of half-century-old poplars and tulip trees - says he will organize a sit-in to block access to the lot.

A resident of the dead-end street of Victorian twin homes noticed the tree-cutting on Jan. 23. SEPTA workers were trimming and felling between 12 and 15 mature trees, according to spokeswoman Marge Sullivan.

According to Jim Whitaker, another spokesman, SEPTA's facilities department workers were concerned that the trees were unstable and would fall down.

The trees lined a creek bed along the east side of Glenside Avenue and formed a natural screen between the Cliff Terrace homes and the parking lot and train tracks.

A neighbor called township and SEPTA officials, who visited the site later that day. Cheltenham's Ward 3 commissioner, Harvey Portner, said that SEPTA's deputy general manager, Howard H. Roberts Jr., apologized, saying that "someone must have pushed the wrong button."

Whitaker, the SEPTA spokesman, would not specify what the transportation authority would do to restore the neighbors' buffer. "We are going to try to figure out what we can do to rectify the situation," he said. "We will put some trees back where we can."

SEPTA has no legal obligation to do so, noted David Kraynik, assistant township manager. "But it is something that even SEPTA has admitted could have been handled a little better," he said. "We think the trees didn't have to be taken down or trimmed as severely as they were."

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