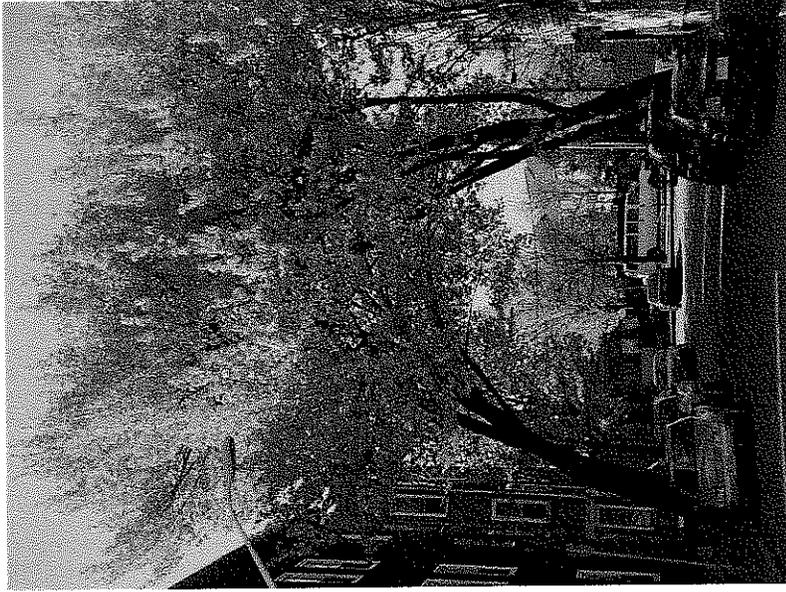


Gilmore Street Trees City is Considering Cutting



Susan Juretschke
Landscape Gardener

10 Gilmore Street, #2
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-3754
(617) 876-6542

MEMORANDUM

TO: Concerned Cambridge Residents, City Councillors, David Lefcourt

FROM: Susan Juretschke, 10 Gilmore Street, #2, Cambridge (Riverside)

RE: **REMOVAL OF FOUR MATURE TREES ON GILMORE STREET, CAMBRIDGE**

DATE: March 28, 2010

STATUS

Following a public removal hearing at the Department of Public Works on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 and a site inspection with a city engineer, City Arborist David Lefcourt has recommended to the City Manager that 2 mature Callery pear trees on the eastern side of Gilmore Street be removed, with no re-planting of new trees. Mr. Lefcourt also states that the 2 trees on the opposite side of the street cannot safely stand on their own as they are being supported by the 2 trees slated for removal. So another removal hearing for this second set of trees will be held on Wednesday, ~~April 7~~, 2010 at 5:30 p.m., also at DPW, 147 Hampshire Street. *May 5.*

HISTORY

At the first hearing, the owner of 242 and 244 Western Avenue (the corner building) requested removal of the 2 trees near his building because of the potential damage their roots could do to the building's recently repaired foundation. The owner stated that the tree roots had damaged his old foundation and that his structural engineer would not guarantee the integrity of the new foundation unless the trees were removed.

I objected to the trees' removal, emphasizing the trees' beauty and maturity. I asked whether the building's old foundation problems might have been related to the fact that the ground below is predominantly fill, a situation which has caused the foundations of many buildings in the surrounding area to settle unevenly (and probably crack).

Mr. Lefcourt also expressed his opinion that trees would not damage a building's foundation unless the foundation was already not in good repair.

Other attendees expressed sympathy about the expenses incurred by the building's owner to repair his foundation.

After a site inspection with a city engineer, Mr. Lefcourt recommended to the City Manager that the 2 trees be removed. Shortly after that Mr. Lefcourt posted the 2 trees on the opposite side of the street for removal, subject to the April 7, 2010 hearing. The owner of the corner building also requested that the 2 trees on his side, once removed, not be replaced.

OPINIONS

(1) The four trees are beneficial to the Western Avenue and Gilmore Street neighborhood. They create a beautiful archway leading to the Moore Youth Center and Hoyt Field: white flowers in spring, shiny green leaves in summer; red and gold foliage in

fall, and beautiful branches during the winter. They also provide much needed shade in the summer and counter some of the air pollution created by car traffic. Gilmore Street will be very bleak without them. Any new trees planted in place of the Callery pears would arch in the same way (growing towards the light) but would take years to grow as tall!

(2) It is not clear how much the roots of the trees on the eastern side of Gilmore Street affected the corner building's old foundation, especially since the repairs have been made and the damage cannot now be seen. My experience as a landscape gardener leads me to believe that even aggressive tree roots are likely to grow around an intact foundation rather than through it. My landlord at 10 Gilmore Street replaced his foundation in 1989-90. A younger Callery pear tree in front of the house (planted in the early 1990's) has not caused any damage to date. Likewise, a birch tree growing next to the side of the house has not caused any damage.

(3) With regard to replacing the existing trees, I believe that trees with less aggressive roots could be planted in the existing locations and satisfy some of the requirements of both the corner building's owner and the neighborhood.

(4) I am concerned about the specific situation on Gilmore Street, but I am also concerned that a tree removal precedent is being set that does not take into account the long-term environmental needs of neighborhoods and the City of Cambridge as a whole.

ACTIONS

May 5th
I am passing around a petition for neighborhood and other Cambridge residents to sign. I am also encouraging people to attend the April 7th hearing and call/e-mail Mr. Lefcourt and the City Manager to express their opposition to the removal of the 4 trees.

I also plan to consult an independent arborist.

I am available for any questions or comments. Anything you can do to stop the removal of the trees would be greatly appreciated.

C. Shipley

From: Chris Messina [cmessina@body1.com]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 10:00 PM
To: LPeterson@cambridgema.gov
Cc: DMaher@cambridgema.gov; DLefcourt@cambridgema.gov; mc.shipley@verizon.net
Subject: FW: Letter from Neighborhood Opposing Proposal to Remove Trees on Gilmore Street Leading to Hoyt Field
Attachments: Letter_Opposing_Gilmore_Tree_Removal.PDF; Gilmore Street Trees City is Considering Cutting.pdf
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Peterson,

Attached please find the signatures of 90% of the abutting and facing buildings on Western Avenue, united in opposition to the proposed tree cutting on Gilmore Street. This letter has already been transmitted to Mayor Maher and Mr. Lefcourt asking for them to intercede to stop this clear cutting. We ask for your support as well.

Because of the timing of the hearing vs. travel schedules, our leaders can not attend, so we are authorizing Carolyn Shipley and Judy Johnson to speak on the Western Avenue abutters behalf in opposition to the cutting. Sincerely,

Chris
Christopher Messina
M 617-642-9760

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Messina
Sent: Sun 5/2/2010 11:10 PM
To: dmaher@cambridgema.gov
Cc: cmurphy@cambridgema.gov; 'Julie Lim (E-mail)'
Subject: FW: Letter from Neighborhood Opposing Proposal to Remove Trees on Gilmore Street Leading to Hoyt Field

Hello David and Claire,

Hope you are enjoying the start of the balmy weather. Speaking of natural beauty, our neighborhood is really concerned about a plan to remove some beautiful trees by clear-cutting Gilmore Street. (see attached). We'd really appreciate your support on this. Thanks!

Chris
Christopher Messina
M 617-642-9760

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Messina
Sent: Sun 5/2/2010 11:02 PM
To: cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov
Cc: 'Julie Lim (E-mail)'; abdullah.daoud@comcast.net
Subject: Letter from Neighborhood Opposing Proposal to Remove Trees on Gilmore Street Leading to Hoyt Field

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

The Western Avenue residents immediately abutting Gilmore Street are united in their opposition to the removal of these beautiful trees. Please see the attached. A copy of this letter is also being delivered to Mayor Maher. Thank you for your

consideration, and please feel free to contact any of us, or to call me with any questions at 617-642-9760. Sincerely,

Chris
Christopher Messina
M 617-642-9760

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5083 (20100503)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

[COPY]
ORIGINAL HAND DELIVERED

By hand and e-mail to cambridgetrees@cambridgema.gov

April 30, 2010

David Lefcourt
City Arborist
Department of Public Works
Cambridge, MA

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

We the Cambridge residents abutting Gilmore Street write to protest the plan to remove two large beautiful trees forming a canopy entering Hoyt Field. These trees (pictures attached) add a great deal to the local ambiance, serve as a much-needed carbon sink, provide shade during the hot summer, and serve as a green counter balance to all the cars accumulating on summer days during softball season.

We understand that the roots in some places may need to be cut back; surely that can be done without destroying the canopy on Gilmore Street. Can you please advise if you will be able to refrain from cutting these trees? We actually want more trees planted in our neighborhood, not less. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Chris and Julie Messina
268 Western Avenue
Nivelle B. M. Cauley
Joe & Kiralee McCauley
266 Western Avenue

Abdullah & Farrah Daoud
264 Western Avenue

Rebecca Smith

cc: David Maher, Mayor

Shawn Braska
M.D.
251 Western Avenue Apt #2
Cambridge MA 02139

Evan McArthur
265 Western Ave, Unit 1

Natalia Molina
266 Western Ave Apt 2

Niketa Brantower
265 Western Ave
Unit 1

ZAHUR UL HAQUE
250 Western Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
Peter Jackson Kunk
252 Western Ave
Zach Kahn
252 Western

Will Sator
245 Western Ave
Cambridge MA

HUNTER SIMPSON
249 Western AVE APT
Adrian Lagos - 265 Western Ave Unit 3 - CRU

ORIGINALS

PETITION

We, the undersigned, object to the proposed removal by the City of Cambridge of 4 established Callery pear trees on Gilmore Street. We further object to the decision to not re-plant 2 trees on the eastern side (if the existing trees were removed).

The 4 mature trees create a beautiful archway leading from Western Avenue to the Moore Youth Center and Hoyt Field. They also benefit the neighborhood by providing much needed shade in the summer and countering some of the air pollution created by car traffic. Gilmore Street would be very bleak without them.

Any new trees planted in place of the Callery pears would take years to grow as tall!

PLEASE DON'T CUT DOWN THESE TREES.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
1.	4/6/10	J Swanson	36 JAY ST.	
2.	4/6/10	Catherine Hiffman	67 Pleasant	
3.	4/6/10	MELISSA SMITH	143 PLEASANT ST.	
4.	4/14/10	Helen Smively	1 Fayette Pk	
5.	4/14/10	Bette Denich	25 Check St.	
6.	4/14/10	Peggy Lynne	69 Brookline St	
7.	4/24/10	Elice Gardner	143 Pleasant St	
8.	4/28/10	Nona Yarden	143 Pleasant St.	
9.	4/28/10	Ann Lynch	146 Hamilton St #1	
10.	4/28/10	David Petersons	48 Magazine St	
11.	4/28/10	Silvia Dlich	188 Auburn St.	
12.	5/2/10	Andy Marsh	16 Laurel St.	
13.	5/2/10	Andy Marsh	10 Laurel St.	
14.	5/2/10	Tom Clark	15 Laurel St	

CONTACT: Susan Juretschke, 10 Gilmore Street, #2, Cambridge (617) 876-6542

PETITION

We, the undersigned, object to the proposed removal by the City of Cambridge of 4 established Callery pear trees on Gilmore Street. We further object to the decision to not re-plant 2 trees on the eastern side (if the existing trees were removed).

The 4 mature trees create a beautiful archway leading from Western Avenue to the Moore Youth Center and Hoyt Field. They also benefit the neighborhood by providing much needed shade in the summer and countering some of the air pollution created by car traffic. Gilmore Street would be very bleak without them.

Any new trees planted in place of the Callery pears would take years to grow as tall!

PLEASE DON'T CUT DOWN THESE TREES.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
1. 3/28/10	Zach Kahn	252 Western, #2, Cambridge	914-572-6567
2. 3/30/10	Frank Kennedy	10 Gilmore St. #3	917-759-7679
3. 3/31/10	Paul Kennedy	10 Gilmore St #3	917-399-0888
4. 3/31	Kevin Whulff	238 Putnam	617 763 3693
5. 3/31	TARA Holmes	66 Callender St.	—
6. 3/31	Sarah Smith	267 Putnam Ave	617 661-8866
7. 3/31	Arthur Ashley	#10 Soden St., Apt. 42	617-661-2988
8. 3/31/10	^{Carolyn} M. CAROLYN SHIPLEY	15 LAUREL ST.	617-492-0601
9. 3/31/10	Wynne L. Freed	16 Soden St #3	617 417 2755
10. 4/4/10	BRUCE HARVEY	11 TUFTS, #4	617-354-8803
11. 4/15/10	ANNIE BURNS-VAN BUREN	10 LANCASTER ST. #6	617-642-6833
12. 4/20/10	Christopher Robinson	20 Ware Street, #9	617-661-4731
13. 4/20/10	Michael Brandon	27 Seven Pines Ave	617-864-3520
14. 4/21/10	Elizabeth M. Smith	15 Brookfield St	617/864-6751
15. 4/21/10	MARK TROVITT	213 NURLEY	617 354 7354
16. 4/21/10	Charles REAGUE	23 EDMUNDS ST	617 661 9845
17. 4/21/10	Karen Klinger	20 Beech St.	617-876-8084

CONTACT: Susan Juretschke, 10 Gilmore Street, #2, Cambridge (617) 876-6542

PETITION

We, the undersigned, object to the proposed removal by the City of Cambridge of 4 established Callery pear trees on Gilmore Street. We further object to the decision to not re-plant 2 trees on the eastern side (if the existing trees were removed).

The 4 mature trees create a beautiful archway leading from Western Avenue to the Moore Youth Center and Hoyt Field. They also benefit the neighborhood by providing much needed shade in the summer and countering some of the air pollution created by car traffic. Gilmore Street would be very bleak without them.

Any new trees planted in place of the Callery pears would take years to grow as tall!

PLEASE DON'T CUT DOWN THESE TREES.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
50.	4/24	Aimee Bonanno	217 Putnam Ave #4	(617) 714-3295
	4/24	Kevin Bonanno	217 Putnam Ave #4	(617) 212 0624
	4/24	Susan Savransky	217 Putnam Ave #1	(617) 868-3554
	4/24	BRANKO GLISOVIC	217 PUTNAM AVE #14	781-475-9648
	4/24	Charles Selk	217 Putnam Ave #17	617-246-4871
	4/24	ANGIE MARINEZ	217 putnam ave #18	(617) 592-9694
	4/24	RADHIKA SOWAL	221 Putnam ave	617-792-1829
	4/28	SUSAN CARTER	217 Putnam Ave unit 20	617-547-2178
	4/28	Ruchi CHAUHAN	223 Putnam Ave unit 5	617-686-9782
	4/28	S. SHYAMPRASAD	217 PUTNAM AVE UNIT 22	617-945-7411
60.	4/28	Trecia Mayo	217 Putnam Ave Unit 7	781-296-7458
	4/28	Teering Dotsang	217 Putnam Ave Unit 10	617-945-2093
	4/28	Nina Nolan	217 Putnam Ave #13	617-401-5212
	4/28	Jilliah Abu-Farman	217 Putnam Ave #14	617 714 5017
	4/28	Shane Fifield	217 Putnam Ave 19	617-945-5909
65.	4/28	Sophia Chan Diaz	229 Putnam Ave	617-301-0719

CONTACT: Susan Juretschke, 10 Gilmore Street, #2, Cambridge (617) 876-6542

PETITION

We, the undersigned, object to the proposed removal by the City of Cambridge of 4 established Callery pear trees on Gilmore Street. We further object to the decision to not re-plant 2 trees on the eastern side (if the existing trees were removed).

The 4 mature trees create a beautiful archway leading from Western Avenue to the Moore Youth Center and Hoyt Field. They also benefit the neighborhood by providing much needed shade in the summer and countering some of the air pollution created by car traffic. Gilmore Street would be very bleak without them.

Any new trees planted in place of the Callery pears would take years to grow as tall!

PLEASE DON'T CUT DOWN THESE TREES.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
66. 5/5/10	Sarah Dinkel	25 Wheeler St. Unit 313	617-312-6773

CONTACT: Susan Juretschke, 10 Gilmore Street, #2, Cambridge (617) 876-6542

Letters To the Editor

Save the trees!

Following a public hearing at the DPW on Feb. 17, 2010, and a site inspection with a city engineer, City Arborist David Lefcourt recommended to the city manager that two mature Callery pear trees of Gilmore Street be removed, with no re-planting of new trees.

He also states that the two trees on the opposite side of the street cannot safely stand on their own, as they are being supported by the two trees slated for removal. So another removal hearing will be held May 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the DPW.

At the first hearing, the owner of 242 and 244 Western Ave. requested removal of the two trees near his building because of the potential damage their roots could do to the building's recently repaired foundation. The owner stated that the tree roots had damaged his old foundation and that his structural engineer would not guarantee the integrity of the new foundation unless the trees were removed.

I objected to the trees' removal. I asked whether the building's old foundation problems might have been related to the fact that the ground below is predominantly fill, a situation which has caused the foundations of many buildings in the surrounding area to settle unevenly and probably crack.

Mr. Lefcourt's opinion was that trees would not damage a building's foundation unless the foundation was already not in good repair.

- The four trees are beneficial to the neighborhood. They create a beautiful archway leading to the Moore Youth Center and Hoyt Field. They provide shade in the summer and counter air pollution. Gilmore Street will be very bleak without them.

- There's no reason to believe that the trees will cause any dam-

age to the repaired foundation. My experience as a landscape gardener leads me to believe that even aggressive tree roots are likely to grow around an intact foundation rather than through it.

- With regard to replacing the existing trees, that is the policy of the city and should not be determined by individual residents.

- A tree removal precedent is being set that does not take into account the environmental needs of neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

I have a petition for Cambridge residents to sign. I encourage people to attend the May 5 hearing and call (617-876-6542)/e-mail Mr. Lefcourt and the city manager to express opposition to the removal of the trees.

SUSAN JURETSCHKE
Gilmore Street

Alewife woodlands are at risk

The most diverse of Cambridge's ecosystems exists at the 130 acres at Alewife Reservation, which borders Belmont and Arlington to the west, with four ponds, a river, marshes, wetlands, open meadows, vernal areas and a forest.

This giant Alewife ecosystem attracts animals and birds and plants not seen often in the urban environment. It is a vital floodplain for these municipalities and all downstream cities and towns to the Boston Harbor. Our unique urban wild in the Boston area functioned maximally during March rains, although damage was not prevented.

According to the US EPA, adaptation means: "All climate-sensitive systems of society and the natural environment, including agriculture, forestry, water resources, human health, coastal settlements and natural ecosystems, will need to adapt to a changing climate or possibly face

diminished productivity, functioning and health."

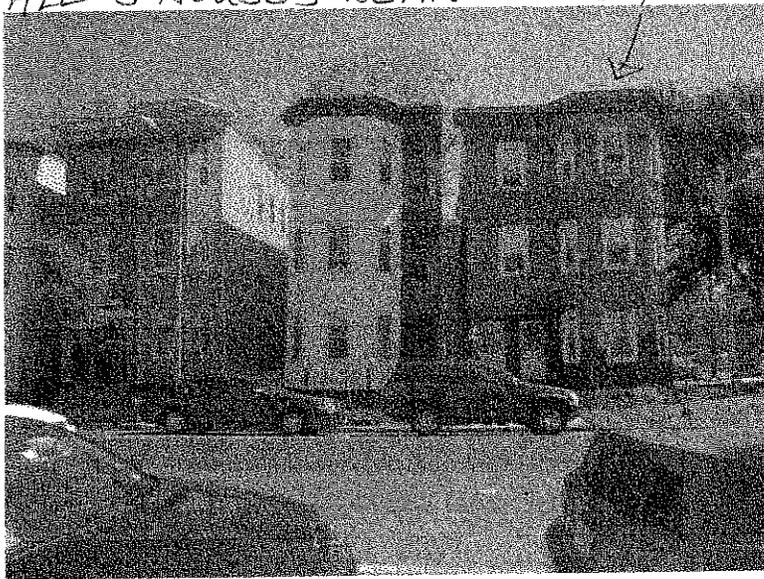
If kept protected and maintained as a natural system, the Alewife area will be a center in north, northwest Cambridge, East Arlington and Belmont for optimal future adaptation needs. Environmental policy maker Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) laid out future environmental requirements as listed. More recently, at the official Cambridge Protection Action Committee (CPAC) City Hall meeting, Mr. Healy, city manager, and Mr. O'Reardon, chief city engineer expressed the importance of concrete adaptation measures. Mr. O'Reardon noticed that during the March floods, "Our arterial drainage systems had failed."

Partial future EOEEA policy includes:

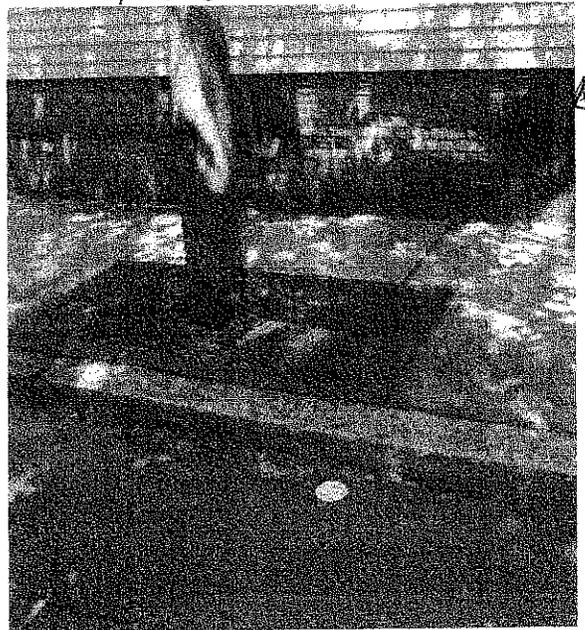
- Intensify efforts to reduce stress on natural systems.
- New Executive Order needed for Wetlands Protection Act resource areas.
- Promote green spaces in urban cities to reduce heat island effect.
- Gather information on diseases related to extreme weather events and flooding.
- Improve water management, including water quality protections.
- Finalize storm water regulations and apply them statewide to upland areas as well.
- Aggressively expand implementation of Low Impact Development as a storm water mitigation mechanism.
- Evaluate the long-term control plans for Combined Sewer Overflow's.
- Expand education efforts of the negative impacts of storm water on flooding, the quality of our rivers and streams, and the quantity of water in our aquifers.

ELLEN MASS
Cambridge

ALL 3 HOUSES LEAN #242



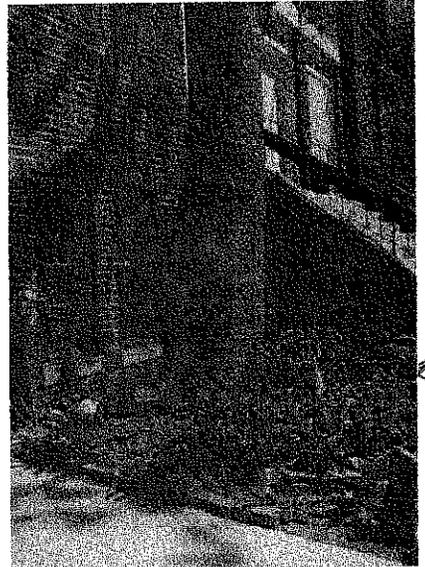
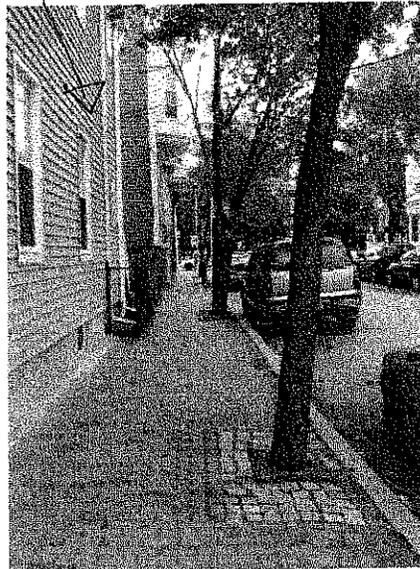
4' OR LESS FROM FOUNDATION



SAME AS GILMORE ST.



4'-5' FROM FOUNDATION. SEVERAL INCHES FROM



TREES ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS ARE OFTEN ONLY 4' OR LESS FROM FOUNDATIONS

TAKING THESE OUT

Lefcourt, David

From: andreawilder@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 3:23 PM
To: C. Shipley
Cc: Judy Johnson; mhjaquith@gmail.com; emoore@alum.mit.edu; elnmass@verizon.net; Peterson, Lisa; Bolduc, John; Kelley, Craig (home); CambridgeTrees; mdriggs@gmail.com; Lindsay, Calvin; rcaplan@igc.org; cstone@law.usc.edu; john pitkin; Simmons, Denise; rfinnegan@comcast.net; cloverstopps@comcast.net; gking@elcom.com; debbyjk@aol.com; skhan1124@yahoo.com; joanna@jbarth.com; jfitzgd@comcast.net; Davis, Henrietta; alisa@alisaaronsondesign.com; judy somberg; carmean2@yahoo.com; meegan mccaffrey; stansound@rcn.com; lsophiapinti@yahoo.com; lrphillips@rocketmail.com; rpdowds@comcast.net; Preval, Karen; dharris@cnc.com; Anders, Rosalie; roberterichards@aol.com; ameltzer@comcast.net; Kangsen, Muna; pfield@cbuilding.org; e wylde; btalwar@gmail.com; metzger@hmfh.com; pbretholtz@comcast.net; harikrovi@gmail.com; scc1@mit.edu; kpjs@comcast.net; cthompson@grownativecambridge.org; frescober@gmail.com; rachellevitt@comcast.net; jessicapratt3d@gmail.com; Wright, Jennifer; Sullivan, Charles M.; joanna herlihy; Seidel, Sam; qyz915@gmail.com; helenkimchi@yahoo.com; gbeng@world.std.com; msalib@alum.mit.edu; rob riman; lleyshon@gmail.com; minkavb@comcast.net; tschenk@cbuilding.org
Subject: Re: Four Mature Trees on Gilmore Street In Danger
Attachments: ~WRD000.jpg

The shading of people and buildings is most important in city trees. Yes, and beauty. Do a little thought experiment: imagine the feeling of a brick wall under the sun, and then shaded, in the summer. That's what trees do for us, too. What is needed are some figures about heat islands. And the city should be using the kind of cement/hot top that is porous, lets water through. I don't know the precise situation, but it is a good idea to talk with the petitioner ahead of time and see if he would like something for his property, an azalea, for example. What can WE do for HIM. Check with the arborist about what plants are available, I have no idea, but I bet something would be. Just a thought. Negotiate. Better a friend than an enemy.

Andrea

----- Original Message -----

From: "C. Shipley" <mc.shipley@verizon.net>
To: "Judy Johnson" <shakatam@hotmail.com>, mhjaquith@gmail.com, emoore@alum.mit.edu, elnmass@verizon.net, lpeterson@cambridgema.gov, jbolduc@cambridgema.gov, craig@craigkelley.org, cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov, mdriggs@gmail.com, clindsay@cambridgema.gov, rcaplan@igc.org, cstone@law.usc.edu, "john pitkin" <john_pitkin@earthlink.net>, dsimmons@cambridgema.gov, rfinnegan@comcast.net, cloverstopps@comcast.net, gking@elcom.com, debbyjk@aol.com, skhan1124@yahoo.com, joanna@jbarth.com, jfitzgd@comcast.net, hdavis@cambridgema.gov, alisa@alisaaronsondesign.com, "judy somberg" <judy_somberg@igc.org>, carmean2@yahoo.com, "meegan mccaffrey" <meegan.mccaffrey@gmail.com>, stansound@rcn.com, lsophiapinti@yahoo.com, lrphillips@rocketmail.com, rpdowds@comcast.net, kpreval@cambridgema.gov, dharris@cnc.com, randers@cambridgema.gov, roberterichards@aol.com, ameltzer@comcast.net, mkangsen@cambridgema.gov, pfield@cbuilding.org, "e wylde" <e_wylde@yahoo.com>, btalwar@gmail.com, metzger@hmfh.com, pbretholtz@comcast.net, harikrovi@gmail.com, scc1@mit.edu, kpjs@comcast.net, cthompson@grownativecambridge.org, frescober@gmail.com, andreawilder@comcast.net, rachellevitt@comcast.net, jessicapratt3d@gmail.com, jwright@cambridgema.gov, csullivan@cambridgema.gov, "joanna herlihy" <joanna_herlihy@yahoo.com>,

sseidel@cambridgema.gov, qyz915@gmail.com, helenkimchi@yahoo.com, gbeng@world.std.com, msalib@alum.mit.edu, "rob riman" <rob.riman@gmail.com>, Illeyshon@gmail.com, minkavb@comcast.net, tschenk@cbuilding.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2010 2:14:29 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern
Subject: RE: Four Mature Trees on Gilmore Street In Danger

To one and all: some discussion points.

It seems that the tree roots do not go deeper than 18" so how could they affect the foundation?
It says below, from 6" to 18".

From Iowa State Forestry Extension

Most Tree Roots Are Found in Top 18 Inches

Healthy trees have extensive root systems. Most tree roots are shallow; the majority of roots are found in the top 18 inches of soil. Usually, more than 50 percent of a tree's roots are in the top six inches of soil. Most favorable growing conditions are in the upper profile of soil; moisture and nutrients are first available near the surface in water and nutrient cycling. Roots extend laterally for considerable distances. Root systems may occupy an area four to seven times the surface area occupied by the crown of the tree.

And this-

From Iowa State Forestry Extension

Form

Trees' root systems are made up of large, permanent roots (which mainly provide anchorage and transport), and many small, temporary **feeder roots** and **root hairs**. It is these small parts of the root system that are the primary water and nutrient absorbers. Many of these small roots function for only one or two years, and then either die or become part of the large root system.

Most tree roots do not penetrate very deeply into the soil. Unless the topsoil is bare or unprotected, trees will concentrate most of their absorbing roots in the top 6 to 18 inches of soil, where water, nutrients, and oxygen can be found.

Tree root systems cover more area than one might expect -- usually extending out in an irregular pattern 2 to 3 times larger than the crown area. However, on a dry weight basis, the "root to shoot" ratio is around 20 to 80%, making the top four to five times heavier than the roots.

The type of roots formed initially is specific to a given species; with age the initial root form is often modified by the growing environment. Such things as soil hard-pans, water tables, texture, structure, and degree of compaction all influence the mature root form. There are three basic classes of tree root systems:

1. **Tap root** (hickory, walnut, butternut, white oak, hornbeam)
2. **Heart root** (red oak, honey locust, basswood, sycamore, pines)
3. **Flat root** (birch, fir, spruce, sugar maple, cottonwood, silver maple, hackberry)

From me:

DO CITY TREES REALLY MAKE AN IMPACT ON CARBON SEQUESTRATION? Well, I posed that question to John Bolduc, Environmental Planner of the CDD, City of Cambridge.... and here is his reply (via e-mail):

"On the role of urban trees and climate change, I think it's important to consider that urban trees are more useful for their shading effects than for carbon sequestration. By shading buildings and pavement in the summer, they reduce the urban heat island effect and reduce the amount of air conditioning that is required, thereby reducing electricity use and the greenhouse gas emissions that occur at power plants."

So, the environmental impact here is that the street and sidewalks will be hotter and the houses currently shaded by those trees will be hotter in summer if the trees are removed and that means more gas emissions from power plants. The code words here are "urban heat island effect."

But the trees are beautiful and form that lovely arch covering the street and making a grand entrance to the youth center.

More from me: per the article at the link below. . It seems that the roots of the Callery pear are not a problem because this tree is recommended for lawns that are 4-6 feet wide, even for narrow tree lawns of 3-4 feet wide (see page 1). On page 3, the description of the roots is: "shallow rooted" and "surface roots are usually not a problem."

<http://hort.ufl.edu/trees/PYRCALA.pdf>

Here's another thought and this is key: these trees don't live long. The repaired foundation should be good for many years or the builder did a crummy job. By the time the Callery pears are old and ready for tree heaven, that foundation should still be strong and viable. Here's a link that says they live less than 25 years. http://www.ehow.com/facts_5845013_redspire-vs_cleveland-pear-tree.html

Also Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Callery_Pear

Do you know how long these trees have been there?

So, is the contractor saying his repair job is no good? Does he guarantee his work for at least 20 years? I'm guessing the Callery pears will be gone from old age in 15-20 years anyway.

So why remove the trees? Can't we be allowed to enjoy their beauty for at least another 10 or so years?

Carolyn

From: Judy Johnson [mailto:shakatam@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 1:54 PM

To: mhjaquith@gmail.com; emoore@alum.mit.edu; elnmass@verizon.net; lpeterson@cambridgema.gov; jbolduc@cambridgema.gov; craig@craigkelley.org; cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov; mdriggs@gmail.com; clindsay@cambridgema.gov; rcaplan@igc.org; cstone@law.usc.edu; john_pitkin@earthlink.net; dsimmons@cambridgema.gov; rfinnegan@comcast.net; cloverstopps@comcast.net; gking@elcom.com; debbyjk@aol.com; skhan1124@yahoo.com; joanna@jbarth.com; mc.shiple@verizon.net; jfitzgd@comcast.net; hdavis@cambridgema.gov; alisa@alisaaronsondesign.com; judy_somberg@igc.org; carmean2@yahoo.com; meegan.mccaffrey@gmail.com; stansound@rcn.com; lsophiapinti@yahoo.com; lrphillips@rocketmail.com; rpdowds@comcast.net; kpreval@cambridgema.gov; dharris@cnc.com; randers@cambridgema.gov; roberterichards@aol.com; ameltzer@comcast.net; mkangsen@cambridgema.gov; pfield@cbuilding.org; e_wylde@yahoo.com; btalwar@gmail.com; metzger@hmfh.com; pbretholtz@comcast.net; harikrovi@gmail.com; scc1@mit.edu; kpjs@comcast.net; ctompson@grownnativecambridge.org; frescober@gmail.com; andreawilder@comcast.net; rachellevitt@comcast.net; jessicapratt3d@gmail.com; jwright@cambridgema.gov; csullivan@cambridgema.gov; shakatam@hotmail.com; joanna_herlihy@yahoo.com; sseidel@cambridgema.gov; qyz915@gmail.com; helenkimchi@yahoo.com; gbeng@world.std.com; msalib@alum.mit.edu; rob.riman@gmail.com; lleyshon@gmail.com; minkavb@comcast.net; tschenk@cbuilding.org

Subject: Four Mature Trees on Gilmore Street In Danger

Greetings,

There is a public hearing at the DPW at 147 Hampshire Street tomorrow at 5:30pm regarding the removal of four mature trees on Gilmore Street using the false proposition that they will damage a newly structured building foundation. If this is allowed a terrible precedent will be set.

There is no proof that these trees pose any threat to damaging a new foundation. There is also a request from the owner of the building at 242-244 that not only asks for the removal of the trees, but that no new trees be planted in the empty spots. This clearly goes against the City of Cambridge's policy to replant trees for all neighborhoods.

Attached are information regarding this situation. I urge all who can attend the meeting to come and speak out for these trees! If you cannot make the meeting, please send emails to David Lefcourt, City Arborist at dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov to state your objections.

Thanks to Susan Juretschke and Mark Jaquith for their contributions.

And thanks for anything you can do.

Regards,
Judy Johnson
Cambridge Tree Stewards
55 Antrim Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-388-3011

ps There will be forthcoming updates on recent activities regarding the CTS and plans to move forward with more organization for the group!



EMAILING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

[Join me](#)

Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5086
(20100504)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5086
(20100504)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

RE: Pros and Cons of Tree Removal-Gilmore St.

From: **Chris Messina** (cmessina@body1.com)

Sent: Wed 5/05/10 1:01 PM

To: C. Shipley (mc.shipley@verizon.net); Judy Johnson (shakatam@hotmail.com)

Cc: craig@craigkelley.org

So they are reacting based on fear, rather than acting based on knowledge. I empathize with their wanting a decent foundation, but attacking trees is not the answer.

Chris

Christopher Messina

M 617-642-9760

-----Original Message-----

From: C. Shipley [<mailto:mc.shipley@verizon.net>]

Sent: Wed 5/5/2010 12:49 PM

To: 'Judy Johnson'; Chris Messina

Cc: craig@craigkelley.org

Subject: Pros and Cons of Tree Removal-Gilmore St.

Someone I know who is a contractor with structural engineering expertise went to look at the situation at 242 Western as a result of my telling him about it yesterday.

He met the residents and looked at the foundation from inside. He said they were friendly and open with him about the foundation and told him about a tree that was in front of the house on Western Ave that was removed.

>>>That's a different situation. However, they have video of the tree as it was being removed which shows a very old, mature tree with long roots. They surmise that the Callery Pear trees have similar long roots.

>>Not knowing what type of tree was removed on Western Avenue, no scientific conclusion can be drawn about roots (Kelly or David, do you know?).

>>>These Callery pears are probably 12-15 years old and will live less than 25 years. That means they will be dead soon.

>>All the literature I dug up says that Callery Pears have very shallow roots and not a large root system because they are recommended for tight spaces such as city sidewalks, small spaces, parking lot strips, 3-4 ft lawns, etc. I have printouts of this article from the USDA Forestry Service.

There is an 86-year-old family member living there at 242 Western and all 3 apartments are filled with family members - brothers, cousins, uncles or whatever. Members of that family have lived there for perhaps 2 or 3 generations. This happens a lot in Riverside - lots of stability there.

They paid a huge (!) amount to have the foundation fixed. (Maybe they didn't get several estimates, but it was a lot of money.) So maybe they have good cause not to want to have that happen again. I guess I would be really concerned if I had paid that much money, too. I'm afraid that the contractor overcharged.

What actually ruined their foundation? >>>Was it that fact that the house is built on fill - a centuries old flood plain/marsh? >>Was it the settling of the earth under the house? >>> Was it the rumbling of huge 18-wheelers and MBTA buses day and night?

>>My contractor friend said that the cellar floor has cracks in it at present. Those cracks were not fixed as part of the foundation repair.

>>did the contractor repair the foundation properly? He used cinder blocks, which would not have made a viable, long-lasting foundation, BUT he poured concrete into the cinder blocks, or so the property owner assumes, so that is more in line with what would be the industry standard for such foundations, if he did indeed pour concrete throughout. My contractor friend would have poured a solid concrete foundation.

What is causing the cracks? What caused the cracks in the floor? >>Most likely the soft marsh land the house is built on. >>>Will this problem go away? Obviously not.

>>>Now about the video. Keep in mind it is a video of an unknown tree species. Don't assume it is a Callery Pear.

Again, my summary of this is that the property owners are still recovering from the huge amount they paid to fix the foundation and they, rightfully so, are anxious that they don't have to do that any time soon. In that regard, I can empathize with them.

In summary, however, there is no proof (photographs or video) of any roots growing into the foundation at 242. Per my structural engineer friend and web sources, tree roots will go around a barrier. Callery Pears do not have huge roots and the roots grow close to the surface not down into a cellar. These Callery Pears have about another 8-10 years before they die. If that foundation does hold for 8-10 years, the property owners should sue the contractor.

The rest of us see the trees as adding beauty to our streets, as sources of shade and cooling in the summer. There are also studies that show that trees and other plantings contribute to safety in the community, a feeling of well-being, and much more.

Thanks,

Lefcourt, David

From: Carvello, Maryellen
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:43 AM
To: Peterson, Lisa
Cc: Lefcourt, David
Subject: FW: Gilmore Street Trees

From: Carol O'Hare [mailto:c.burchardohare@att.net]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:32 AM
To: City Manager
Subject: Gilmore Street Trees

Dear Mssrs. Healy and Lefcourt (to whom I'm sending this via the DPW's website's contact form):

I just read the letter in the Cambridge Chronicle about the possible removal of four trees on Gilmore Street in the Riverside neighborhood. If the letter is accurate, I, too, oppose the removal of the trees. If any resident with such a request were to determine the fate of our street trees, we'd could be in the same situation as South Boston, with the lowest number of trees per capita of any area in the Commonwealth. People would seek tree removals for any number of reasons: they can cause foundation damage and water or sewer pipe encroachment; they provide bird roosts above parked vehicles; they cast shade on sun-loving plants; they impair visibility; they allow their leaves (& sometimes pods or fruit) to fall, creating raking or, worse yet, leaf-blowing work; etc.

The Riverside neighborhood, in particular, has precious few of trees to begin with. I, therefore, urge you to rescind and/or deny any approval for the removal of the four Gilmore Street trees.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Hare
172 Magazine St.
Cambridge
(617) 354-1397

To: David Lefant, arborist
From Anne Burns, Cambridge resident (617-642-6833)

re trees suggested for removal on Gilmore St

Date 5/5/2010

I respectfully object to the removal
of any of the eucalyptus trees
now being considered for removal

I have witnessed them throughout 4 seasons
for many years

In my judgement their merits for the street,
neighborhood community and city

far outweigh the arguments for taking any
of them down.

Their health appears to far transcend
any wounding conditions

their loss would be huge
and what they give could not be

made up for for years beyond

lifetimes of many of us

now enjoying them

Thanks for your full consideration

(I know your job is not easy!)

Please put in File:

Wed, 5-5-10

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Second ~~set~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~trees~~ on
Gilmore Street across from the theories.

I object to the removal of
the 2 trees on Gilmore Street
based on ^①wounding. I saw these
2 trees and request that the
city wait until a second opinion
from a neutral arborist can be
obtained in order to inspect
the wounds of these 2 trees
to determine how dangerous
these wounds make the 2 trees.
I also object for ^②the second
reason for removal of these two
trees: leaning. That does not look
like a dangerous leaning situation at all.

Lefcourt, David

From: Judy Johnson [shakatam@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 6:19 PM
To: City Manager; CambridgeTrees; Kelley, Craig (home)
Subject: Letter to be entered into the record of public comment on DPW 5/5/10 hearing on Gilmore Trees

Dear Mr. Healy and David Lefcourt,

I am planning on attending the public hearing on the Gilmore Street trees, and have questions concerning some of the facts in this situation.

I was wondering who the owner is of 242-244 Western Avenue, and why he/she seems to have gotten extra attention and concern in this matter? After reading the letter (in public record) from Mark Jaquith, Co-President of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods, who clearly lists the reasons why trees must sometime be removed in the City, why this issue wasn't settled at the first hearing for these trees, when the trees should have been already granted safety.

It seems a waste of time and energy for residents to have to protest a decision, when the answer is so clearly seen. There is no proof at all for the trees posing a threat of damaging the new foundation.

My other question is, what is the entire procedure that must be done in this situation? And what persons directly are making the final decision?

Please enter this letter into the record of public comment for DPW May 5,2010 Gilmore Street Tree Hearing.

Sincerely,

Judy Johnson
55 Antrim Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-388-3011
shakatam@hotmail.com



Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods

In accordance with our agreed upon goal of reducing resource consumption, this letter is being sent by email only.

To:

Mayor David Maher
The Honorable members of the Cambridge City Council
Robert Healy, City Manager
Lisa Peterson, Commissioner, Public Works Department
Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager
David Lefcourt, City Arborist
Taha Jennings, Neighborhood planner

Dead Sirs and Madams:

The membership of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods was informed of the situation concerning four street trees on Gilmore Street in Cambridgeport at our meeting held on April 21, 2010. The ACN requests that these trees be allowed to remain standing and growing on Gilmore Street. These trees provide all of the benefits that have been generally acknowledged to come to the urban environment from their presence. These, as I'm sure you know, include shade, summertime cooling, pollution mitigation, a boon to the quality of life and enjoyment of our city by its residents.

The location of these trees is in no way unique. Throughout the city, we have city trees in sidewalk cut-outs within a few feet of the foundations of private dwellings and commercial properties. (I have such a tree in front of my own home which is causing sidewalk and fence damage.) The owner of 242-244 Western Ave. is apparently claiming that roots from these trees are damaging the foundation of his building. If true, this is most likely due to the inferior state of his structure. If an adequate foundation was subject to this type of severe damage from street trees, the DPW would be swamped with such claims all over town. Apparently the owner of 250-252 Western Ave. did have repairs done to his foundation that have proven adequate. The residents of Cambridge should not be made to suffer for the shortcomings the state of one building and the owner's lack of action to repair the problem adequately.

These trees do not seem to come close to meeting the city's stated criteria for removal. The following is quoted directly from the DPW published web page on trees. Emphasis added.

Tree removal

We do not remove City trees without good reason. **We do not remove trees because** they drop leaves or acorns, because it has grown too large or shades your lawn, or because **it is not conveniently located. We will remove trees that are hazardous.** In the context of state law, a hazard tree poses a threat to persons and/or property. As defined by the International Society of Arboriculture, **a hazard tree must meet three criteria:**

- **The tree is sufficiently large enough to cause damage should it fall;**
- **The tree has a target (that would be damaged should it fall);**
- **The tree has a condition that would make it likely to fall.**

Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods

The ACN requests that these trees be allowed to remain and objects to the precedent that might be set if a property owner's unwillingness to make adequate repairs to his property is taken as justification to remove street trees that benefit the city as a whole.

Please enter this letter into the record of public comment on the DPW hearing of May 5, 2010 regarding trees on Gilmore Street.

Sincerely,
Mark Jaquith
Co-President
Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods

\$5/5/10

I strongly object to the removal of
any of the four trees on Gilmore Street.

The city cannot remove trees because
of the threat of damage to foundations. These
trees are beautiful and the "wounds"
are in the process of healing.

Don Murray
87 Fayerweather St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Please make this a part of the record.

Wade
5-5-10

Please put in File:

TO Whom It May Concern:

Re: First set of 2 trees by the
Moore's property on Gilmore Street

I object to the removal of the

First set of 2 trees on Gilmore

Street:

① Trees' roots don't break personal
property unless there is a crack
already in the personal property i.e.
Cement, Foundations, Clay pipes, etc.

② Wounds on these 2 trees do not
look dangerous. Get a second
opinion from a neutral arborist.

③ The leaning of these 2 trees do
not look dangerous. Get a second
opinion from a neutral arborist.

CHANGE YOUR MINDS
ABOUT THESE 2 TREES, PLEASE

To:

Cambridge City arborist

5-5-2010

We the undersigned object to the removal of all 4 trees on Gilmore Street in Cambridge.

Private homeowners issues with trees or the possible damage caused by roots, is NOT a justification to remove a City tree. Further, there is no need to remove the trees on the other side of the street just because they are leaning. We do not believe that this is necessary and certainly there are other remedies other than removal.

Sincerely,

Tara B. Murray

Tegan R. Murray

Jonah A. Murray

5-5-10

To: David Lefcourt

We object to the removal of any and all of the trees on Wheeler Street in Cambridge.

These trees provide beauty, shade, and "green" to our city.

There was no evidence presented that any of the trees are "hazard" trees and therefore, if we are to not "bow" to the pressure of construction, then all of the trees should stay.

Sincerely,

Tara B. Murray
Jannah A. Murray

202 Wheeler St.

5-5-10

To Whom It May Concern:

I object to the removal of all the trees on Wheeler ~~St~~ street based on practicality. There is no need ~~why~~ to remove them, only "while we are at it."

Jean Murray
87 Fayerweather St
Cambridge MA 02138

P.S. My husband worked at
Abe Assoc Food 10 years
& the street looks better
now with the trees
than he did then.

Lefcourt, David

From: Tom Benner [tgbenner@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 12:21 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: Re: Wheeler Street trees

Hi Dave, I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting, but I wanted to reiterate my concern about the tree removal plan for Wheeler Street. As I mentioned in an earlier email (below) I sent to you, many of us who live on Wheeler Street are hoping for the chance to weigh in before a final decision.

Is there is a way to keep the existing trees (which admittedly could use a good pruning), taking into consideration the impact that removal will have on our neighborhood? I understand the trees would eventually be replaced, but I assume it will take years before they reach considerable size.

I am sorry that I cannot attend tonight's meeting, but I hope the concerns of residents (some of whom hope to be there) can be addressed.

Respectfully,

-- Tom Benner
25 Wheeler St., Apt. 316
Cambridge, Ma 02138

On Mon, May 3, 2010 at 1:35 PM, Tom Benner <tgbenner@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Dave, I am a condo association trustee for the Reservoir Lofts at 25-31 Wheeler Street. A number of our residents have expressed concern about the recently posted plan to remove the existing trees in front of our buildings as part of a larger repaving project.

I am curious if the plan to remove the trees is final, or may residents weigh in? (A lot of us feel the existing trees play an important aesthetic role on an otherwise industrial-looking and heavily trafficked street). And if the decision is already finalized, is there a way for residents to have input on what is eventually used to replace the trees?

-- Tom Benner
25 Wheeler St., Apt. 316
Cambridge, Ma 02138

--
Tom

Lefcourt, David

From: Dianah Barrett [dianah.barrett@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:39 AM
To: Lefcourt, David
Cc: bigdeal231@yahoo.com
Subject: Tree Removal on Wheeler Street

Dear David Lefcourt,

I am writing in response to plans to remove the trees from Wheeler Street in Cambridge MA 02138. I am a resident of Wheeler Street and I would like to see these trees remain on Wheeler Street. Would you please explain the reasons for removing these trees, plans to replace these trees and how I can file a request/petition for the trees not be removed from Wheeler Street?

Best regards,
Dianah Barrett

29 Wheeler Street
Cambridge MA 02138
Tel: 609-603-9663

Lefcourt, David

From: Taborn, Kristin [ktaborn@amgen.com]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: tree removal

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

I am a resident of Reservoir Lofts located on Wheeler Street. My unit will be directly affected by the removal of the trees on this street. Currently the trees keep the energy use in my loft lower by shading the unit; they also provide privacy. I am very concerned about losing these lovely trees for these reasons, as well as for the potential noise and disruption that will occur.

Sincerely,

Kristin Taborn

Lefcourt, David

From: Sarah Diehl [bigdeal231@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 7:03 AM
To: Lefcourt, David
Cc: Dianah; Reservoir Lofts Community
Subject: Tree Removal on Wheeler Street

Dear Mr. Lefcourt,

I am a resident of Reservoir Lofts on Wheeler Street. I am concerned about the removal of our trees that are in front of our property. I realize there is a project in place. I have many concerns. I am concerned about the environmental changes that will take place, primarily for the pair of hawks that are nearby. They frequent these trees and may have a nest in one of them. I am also concerned with the kind of tree you are planning to use and how tall they will be. I have lived in Cambridge all my life on Lexington Avenue and know that there have been trees that have been planted in the City that have died. Please reply with the kind of tree and diameters and the time-line when you plan to remove the trees. I realize there are trees that are dead but I feel that if they had been properly pruned, we would not be in this predicament. Please send me the information that I have requested as soon as you can. I look forward to the meeting on May 5th.

Thank you,

Sarah Diehl, 25 Wheeler Street, Unit 313

