

Lisa Peterson

Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-349-4800 TTD 617-349-4805

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager From: David Lefcourt, City Arborist

Date: June 22nd, 2012

RE: June 21st, 2012 Tree Hearing

The following is the list of trees heard on June 21st, 2012: Objections to specific removals are attached.

- 1. 1575 Cambridge St (on Hovey Ave) Removal of 10.1" Sophora due to underground utility and streetscape improvements. No Objections Rec'd
- 2. 75-125 Binney St (Formerly known as 87, 101, 119, 129, & 143 Binney St; 264, 270, & 274 Third St; 56, 60, 64, 68, 72, 72-A, 76, 80, & 84 Rogers St) Removal of 20 trees (Binney St 12.1" London planetree; Third St 5.4" pear, 3.3" pear, 6.0" pear, 4.4" pear, 5.0" pear, 3.8" pear, 5.6" pear, & 5.0" pear; Rogers St 13.8" hackberry, 10.2" pear, 8.7" honeylocust, 13.5" Norway maple, 13.8" Norway maple, 7.9" pear, 9.4" pear, & 14.8" Norway maple; Second St 14.6" Norway maple, 12.7" honeylocust, & 15.6" Norway maple) for private property development and streetscape improvements. Objections rec'd from Caron, Mirenzi, Hatley, and McGrath

DESCRIPTION: Item #1 – 75-125 Binney St (Formerly known as 87, 101, 119, 129, & 143 Binney St; 264, 270, & 274 Third St; 56, 60, 64, 68, 72, 72-A, 76, 80, & 84 Rogers St)

The initiation of the Public Tree Hearing for the trees at 75-125 Binney Street was initiated by Alexandria Real Estate Equities (Alexandria) in conjunction with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc., (MVVA). Alexandria is proposing to construct a new building at 75-125 Binney St. Alexandria requested 20 street trees be removed in order to move forward with the project.



During a field inspection, I noticed many of the trees proposed for removal in fair condition. Many of the trees have dieback within the canopy, and wounds and cavities along the trunk or within the canopy. There is one honeylocust in good condition on Second Street, but excavation and installation of the parking garage entrance would severely impact the health and structural stability of the tree.

RECOMMENDATION:

After listening to and reading all the objections, and observations made in the field, it is my recommendation that the 20 trees around 75-125 Binney Street be removed.

Alexandria and MVVA have agreed to replace each caliper inch removed. Alexandria proposes to install roughly 40 new street trees around the proposed construction site. The installation of new street trees would be a significant improvement over the existing street tree population around the site. The City Arborist will work with Alexandria and MVVA to determine suitable replacement species, and will make sure proper planting techniques are utilized and post-planting tree care is in place.

If possible, the trees should remain standing until construction requires these trees to be removed.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Cc: Lisa Peterson, Public Works Commissioner

Attachments: Kirk Caron

Courtney Mirenzi Catherine Hatley Jack McGrath

Lefcourt, David

From: Sent: Kirk Caron (kirkcaron@gmail.com) Tuesday, June 19, 2012 8:52 PM

To: Subject: CambridgeTrees 75-125 Binney St

Good Evening,

I'm writing to oppose the removal of the trees on Binney, Third, and Rogers Streets. There appears to be no real need to remove all of the trees to complete the aforementioned construction/development project. Several other development projects in the neighborhood are easily working around the trees on their lots, including the construction project at the corner of Second and Charles streets where the trees are mere feet from the active construction zone.

I would ask the developer to justify why they need every tree around the block removed, when the project site already includes several easy egress points. I would imagine they have nothing beyond convenience.

Also - If the trees are taken down, will they be replaced with new trees?

Thank you,

Kirk Caron Cambridge Resident

Noted trees:

75-125 Binney St (Formerly known as 87, 101, 119, 129, & 143 Binney St; 264, 270, & 274 Third St; 56, 60, 64, 68, 72, 72-A, 76, 80, & 84 Rogers St) – Removal of 20 trees (Binney St – 12.1" London planetree; Third St – 5.4" pear, 3.3" pear, 6.0" pear, 4.4" pear, 5.0" pear, 3.8" pear, 5.6" pear, & 5.0" pear; Rogers St – 13.8" hackberry, 10.2" pear, 8.7" honeylocust, 13.5" Norway maple, 13.8" Norway maple, 7.9" pear, 9.4" pear, & 14.8" Norway maple; Second St – 14.6" Norway maple, 12.7" honeylocust, & 15.6" Norway maple) for private property development and streetscape improvements.

Lefcourt, David

From: Sent: Courtney (cmirenzi@gmail.com) Wednesday, June 20, 2012 2:38 PM

To:

CambridgeTrees

Subject:

Objection to Tree Removal

To the City Arborist:

My name is Courtney Mirenzi and I am objecting to the tree removal of public shade trees located at 75-125 Binney St in Cambridge

(http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/newsandevents/news/2012/06/treehearingjune21.aspx).

My objections are as follows:

These 20 trees add a great deal of character to a block that has gone through a lot of change in the past year. They enhance the neighborhood by providing shade and green space on a block that has very little of both. The trees themselves are beautiful, and while not quite so mature, have the potential to serve the community for many years to come. Removing these trees and replacing them with saplings, which is what I'm assuming the private property owner will do, is a travesty and should be avoided at all costs.

If you wish to see what this block will look like if these trees are cut down, you need not look further than directly diagonal from the location to the block located between 2nd and 3rd between Binney St and Linsley St. This block has six trees total, one of which is dead. This block is totally characterless and quite an eyesore. The trees remaining are next to an open parking lot.

This parking lot was most likely a private building at some point in time, that was ripped down for a parking lot, and now only five lonely trees remain. Give it 10 years with the way this neighborhood is building up, and that is *exactly* what will happen with 75-125 Binney St. Eventually the building will be gone, and if the trees are cut down, all we will have left is a big empty, ugly hole in our neighborhood.

I implore you to look to the future health of this neighborhood and preserve these trees. Preserve the character of our neighborhood. Don't condemn these trees to the fate of biotech development. This block will become just as unattractive as the one I referenced above if you cut these trees down. It's just a matter of time.

Sincerely, Courtney Mirenzi

Lefcourt, David

From:

Hatley, Catherine [CHATLEY@PARTNERS.ORG]

Sent:

Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:31 PM

To:

CambridgeTrees

Subject:

Tree Removal On Binney and Third st,

My name is Catherine Hatley and I am a resident of East Cambridge. I'm writing to express my desire not to have 20 shade trees removed from this area. Especially if these trees are not dying or diseased.

Thank You Catherine Hatley 122 Charles st #3 Cambridge MA 02141

617-233-9430

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removal of all existing street trees on Rogers, and, is 3rd ft an per true proposed plan. I would like to advocate for the preservation of any trees in this area that are in good health, and recommend that precedures be taken in the implementation of construction to keep trees trees and in their and recommend that

Thank byon.

dock mcGrath

114 Summer St #2

Somerille, mA 02143

SIGN IN

TREE HEARING 6.21-12

Emerson Olander; MWH.
Pare Piloher Alexardria/Tocci
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Jack Mi Graty

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