Owen O'Riordan
DPW Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617 349-4800
TTd 716 349-4805

Approved RCR 8/26/14

August 1st, 2014

To: Richard C. Rossi, City Manager

From: David Lefcourt,
City Arborist

Through: Owen O' Riordan
DPW Commissioner

Re: Tree Hearing recommendations 7/8/2014

The following is the list of trees heard on July 8th, 2014: Objections to specific removals are attached.

1. **45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd)** – Removal of 32.4" sugar maple due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted. – **Objections from Warner, Carlisle, and Cummings**
2. **28 Tremont St** – Removal of 30" Norway maple due to canopy dieback and cavity in trunk. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
3. **24 Norris St** – Removal of 2 Norway maple trees (13.4" & 14.5") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted. – **Objections from Kim**
4. **671 Concord Ave** – Removal of 9.2" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
5. **7 Fairview Ave** – Removal of 6.5" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
6. **1730 Mass Ave** – Removal of 8.8" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
7. **2409 Mass Ave** – Removal of 16.1" ash tree due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
8. **2409 Mass Ave** – Removal of 9.6" ash tree due to cavity at base of trunk. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**

9. **2500 Mass Ave** – Removal of 2 ash trees (11.2" & 5.6") due to canopy dieback and structural issues. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
10. **2505 Mass Ave** – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.8" & 6") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
11. **Mass Ave (at Clarendon Ave)** – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.2" & 6") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
12. **21 Orchard St** – Removal of 14.1" ash tree due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
13. **66 Sherman St (on Cadbury Rd)** – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.5" & 10.2") due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**
14. **42 Arlington St** – Removal of 36.3" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted. – **Objections from Ashley, Bishko, Stonewell, Lindeke, and Wolff**
15. **146 Brattle St** – Removal of 13.6" ash tree due to structural issues. Location will be replanted. – **No Objections**

DESCRIPTION: **Item #1 – 45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd)**

The initiation of the Public Tree Hearing for the street tree at 45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd) was by the City Arborist. The existing condition of the tree was brought to my attention by one of the Huron A project supervisors.

During my field inspection, I noticed that about 50% of the canopy was dead. In previous tree walks, I had noticed canopy dieback which is typical of a sugar maple in the urban environment.

RECOMMENDATION:

After reading the objections, and observations made in the field, it is my recommendation that the tree 45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd) be removed. The tree is in poor condition, and does present a higher risk to public safety. The tree could be pruned to remove the deadwood, but most likely more deadwood would be present in the next growing season. Sugar maple is a species which cannot tolerate the tough urban conditions as a street tree.

DESCRIPTION: **Item #3 – 24 Norris St**

The initiation of the Public Tree Hearing for the 2 street trees at 24 Norris St was by the City Arborist. The project manager for the Norris St construction informed me that one of the abutting residents were concerned about the health of the trees.

During my field inspection, I noticed the tree on the left had significant canopy dieback. The tree did not have a full canopy due to years of utility line pruning. The tree on the right has a significant decay pocket up on the trunk where one major leader is connected. The leader is leader is leaning towards the building.

RECOMMENDATION:

After reading the objection, and observations made in the field, it is my recommendation that the 2 street trees in front of 24 Norris St be removed. The trees are in poor condition, and both present a higher risk to public safety.

DESCRIPTION: **Item #14 – 42 Arlington St**

The initiation of the Public Tree Hearing for the street tree at 180 Magazine St (on Glenwood Ave) was by the City Arborist. The City is removing ash trees in poor condition in conjunction with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) management plan. Trees in a weakened or stressed state are more attractive to EAB.

During my field inspection, I noticed the tree had a significant deadwood present throughout the canopy. Also, sucker growth was present along the lower portions of the larger leaders which can be an indication of a tree in stress and/or decline.

RECOMMENDATION:

After reading the objections, and observations made in the field, it is my recommendation that the tree in front of 42 Arlington St be preserved and pruned for the time being. The tree will be monitored, and re-evaluated next spring. If more significant deadwood is observed over the next 1-3 growing seasons, the tree will be removed without an additional tree hearing.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Cc: Owen O'Riordan, Public Works Commissioner

Attachments:

Warner
Carlisle
Cummings
Kim
Ashley
Bishko
Stonewell
Lindeke
Wolff

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Removal of Public Shade Trees
City of Cambridge, Department of Public Works

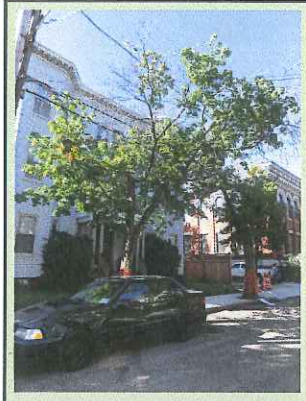
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 3 and 4, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 8th, 2014 at 5:30 pm at 147 Hampshire St, Cambridge, Mass., to consider the removal of the following public tree(s):

45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd) – Removal of 32.4" sugar maple due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
28 Tremont St – Removal of 30" Norway maple due to canopy dieback and cavity in trunk. Location will be replanted.
24 Norris St – Removal of 2 Norway maple trees (13.4" & 14.5") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.
671 Concord Ave – Removal of 9.2" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
7 Fairview Ave – Removal of 6.5" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
1730 Mass Ave – Removal of 8.8" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
2409 Mass Ave – Removal of 16.1" ash tree due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted.
2409 Mass Ave – Removal of 9.6" ash tree due to cavity at base of trunk. Location will be replanted.
2500 Mass Ave – Removal of 2 ash trees (11.2" & 5.6") due to canopy dieback and structural issues. Location will be replanted.
2505 Mass Ave – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.8" & 6") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.
Mass Ave (at Clarendon Ave) – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.2" & 6") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.
21 Orchard St – Removal of 14.1" ash tree due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted.
66 Sherman St (on Cadbury Rd) – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.5" & 10.2") due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted.
42 Arlington St – Removal of 36.3" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
146 Brattle St – Removal of 13.6" ash tree due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.

The tree(s) identified above have been posted for public inspection. Any objections to their removal must be submitted in writing to the City Arborist, prior to or during the hearing. The mailing address for the City Arborist is Department of Public Works, City of Cambridge, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; phone: 617-349-6433 email: cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov

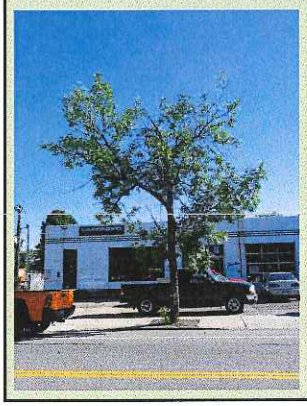
45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd)

28 Tremont St



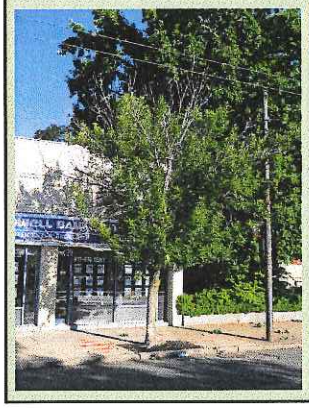
24 Norris St

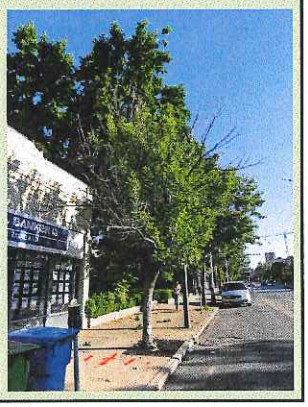
671 Concord Ave



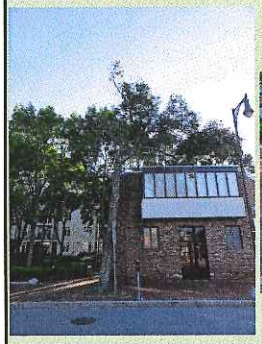
7 Fairview Ave

1730 Mass Ave



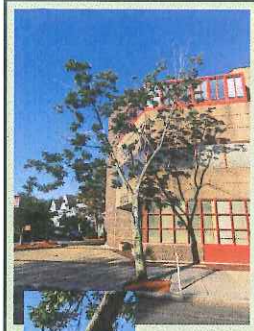


2409 Mass Ave – Tree #1



2409 Mass Ave – Tree #2

2500 Mass Ave



Tree #1

Tree #2

2505 Mass Ave

Tree #1

Tree #2

Mass Ave (at Clarendon Ave)

Tree #1

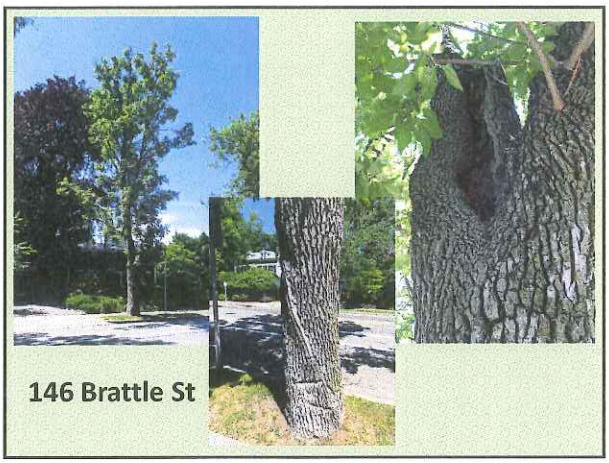
Tree #2

21 Orchard St

66 Sherman St (on Cadbury Rd) – Tree #1

66 Sherman St (on Cadbury Rd) – Tree #2

42 Arlington St


146 Brattle St

Lefcourt, David

From: Anne Warner [anwarner@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2014 8:33 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Cc: Woodbury, Catherine; 'KyAnn Anderson'; 'Maggie Cummings'
Subject: RE: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning

Dear David: The sugar maple to the left of 12 Grozier is very large and half of it is gorgeous – they've already done a bump out around it. I'd like to see it pruned and saved. I can't be at the hearing as I'm leaving town Monday morning. But my vote is to try to save it. We've lost enough large trees in our community. I watched some of the 12 Grozier tree removal Friday. They've cut it down to the stump and I could see no sign of trunk decay. There are now signs for Tree Work in front of 15 Grozier. I hope there is no thought of removing the two large full trees. Regards, Anne

Anne Warner
21 Grozier Road
anwarner@verizon.net
1-617-868-0103

From: KyAnn Anderson [mailto:KAnderson@kleinfelder.com]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 10:26 AM
To: anwarner@verizon.net
Cc: Woodbury, Catherine; dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov
Subject: FW: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning

Hello Anne,

I wanted to get back to you on your email below. Thank you for taking the time to write. David Lefcourt emailed Maggie Cummings about a similar inquiry, and his response regarding the health of the tree at 12 Grozier is below.

Please get back to me if you have any further questions.

Have a great day.
KyAnn

From: Lefcourt, David <dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 8:02 AM
To: Maggie Cummings; David.J.McCarthy@mwhglobal.com
Cc: KyAnn Anderson; Woodbury, Catherine; jbobowski@bioengineering.com
Subject: RE: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning

Hi Maggie,

Thank you for the email.

The tree in front of 12 Grozier Road was heard on June 3rd. The Norway maple is loaded with fungus at the base of the tree. The amount of fungus present means there is a significant amount of root/trunk decay present within the tree therefore potentially making the tree more susceptible to failure. Since I received no objections prior to or during the tree hearing, the tree has been approved for removal.

There is a large sugar maple to the left of 12 Grozier Road that is in poor condition as well as seen by the picture below. At least 50% of the canopy is gone. This tree will be heard on July 8th.

For all tree hearings, we post a notice in the Cambridge Chronicle, DPW website, online City Calendar, at City Hall, and DPW front door at minimum for 2 weeks. The trees are posted 7-14 days prior to tree hearing date.

I do not like removing trees especially large, mature trees, but I do have to minimize the risk to public safety. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,

David Lefcourt
MCA, MCLP, ISA Municipal Specialist
City Arborist/Tree Warden
City of Cambridge
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-6433
dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov
www.cambridgema.gov/tree

From: Maggie Cummings [mailto:magsemail@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:22 AM
To: David.J.McCarthy@mwhglobal.com
Cc: KAnderson@kleinfelder.com; Lefcourt, David; Woodbury, Catherine; jbobowski@bioengineering.com
Subject: Re: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning

Hi helpful officials,
I only just noticed there is a notice on the big tree two houses down from us, at 12 Grozier Road. There was apparently a hearing on June 6 about cutting down this tree. I don't know when the sign went up, but I certainly didn't notice it. We have signs all over the street, mostly about no parking, so most people would never notice a sign like this about a tree hearing. **It will be horrible if that tree is cut down. We have already lost most of the shade around our houses due to over trimming, and having lost at least three healthy trees** already due to unexpected removal for construction purposes. I am very upset at the possibility that you will cut down this healthy tree. I'm sure other neighbors agree and you will be hearing from them, if they find out about this in time! I hope you can save this tree.
Maggie Cummings

Lefcourt, David

From: George Carlisle [gcarlisle@sps.edu]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 5:11 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: Fwd: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning

Dear David,

I have admiration for your knowledge and your dedication, but I hear from my friends that several more trees are in danger of being cut down. Please register me as one who wants to keep the trees from being cut. I am sorry to; be away in Maine. George Calisle

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maggie Cummings <magsemail@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning
Date: July 6, 2014 at 9:47:44 PM EDT
To: <matschr@comcast.net>, <paul@pnjlaw.com>, <mnorth@fas.harvard.edu>, <gcarlisle@sps.edu>, <joannecarlisle@mac.com>, <stoddards2@aol.com>

Please see Anne's email below, and voice your support to the addresses if you agree. Thanks

-----Original Message-----
From: Anne Warner <anwarner@verizon.net>
To: dlefcourt <dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov>
Cc: 'Woodbury, Catherine' <cwoodbury@cambridgema.gov>; 'KyAnn Anderson' <KAnderson@kleinfelder.com>; 'Maggie Cummings' <magsemail@aol.com>
Sent: Sun, Jul 6, 2014 8:32 pm
Subject: RE: Trees on Grozier Rd - NSTAR pruning

Dear David: The sugar maple to the left of 12 Grozier is very large and half of it is gorgeous – they've already done a bump out around it. I'd like to see it pruned and saved. I can't be at the hearing as I'm leaving town Monday morning. But my vote is to try to save it. We've lost enough large trees in our community. I watched some of the 12 Grozier tree removal Friday. They've cut it down to the stump and I could see no sign of trunk decay. There are now signs for Tree Work in front of 15 Grozier. I hope there is no thought of removing the two large full trees. Regards, Anne

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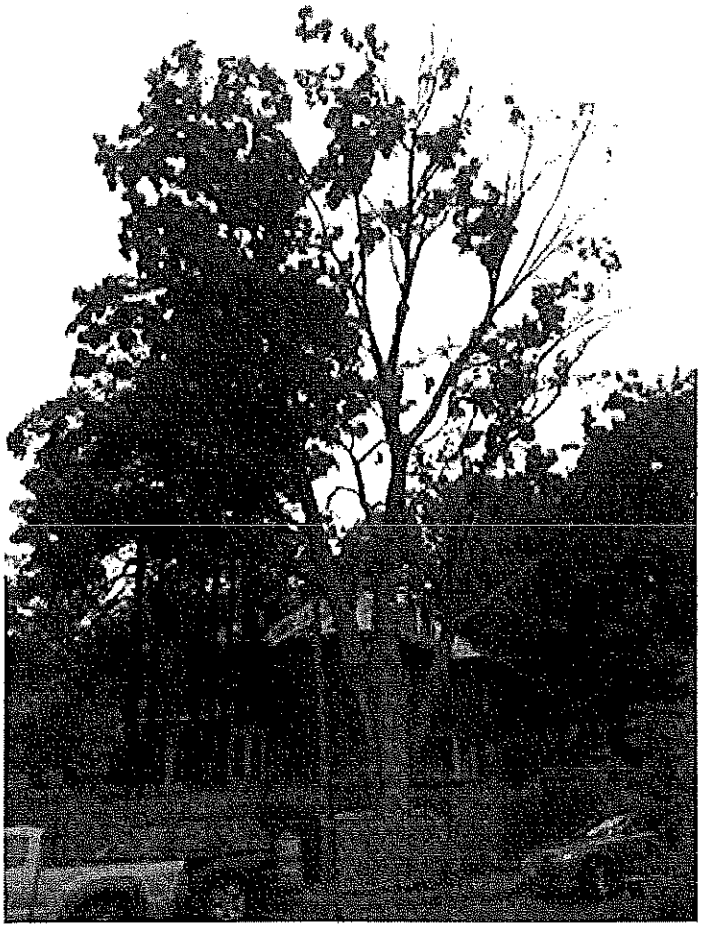

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Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:22 AM
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Maggie Cummings

Lefcourt, David

From: CambridgeTrees [cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 9:02 AM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: FW: Tree Removal outside 24 Norris Street

From: Young Kim[SMTP:YCKNORRIS@GMAIL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 9:02:31 AM
To: CambridgeTrees
Subject: Tree Removal outside 24 Norris Street
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Tree Warden,
Please let me know why the two trees outside 24 Norris Street are being scheduled to be removed. Since there are posted signs, I am assuming they are healthy public trees and do not pose any immediate hazard to the public hazard. In general, I am not in favor of cutting down healthy trees unless there is compelling reason.

Also, some of the trees in front of the 40 Norris Street have been damaged during the construction to convert the old North Camb HS into residential apts. Couple of questions
1) have you had a chance or can you inspect the shade trees to determine the extent of the damage
2) if there are damages, what recourse does the City have to have the trees restored?

Thank you
Young Kim
17 Norris Street

Lefcourt, David

From: CambridgeTrees [cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 12:18 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: FW: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington Street
Attachments: Gisela Ashley.42 arlington street tree.docx

From: ASHLEYGGA@aol.com[SMTP:ASHLEYGGA@AOL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 12:17:40 PM
To: CambridgeTrees
Subject: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington Street
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I am unable to attend the meeting on July 8. Please see the attached letter in opposition to the proposed tree removal.

Thanks and regards,

Gisela Ashley
7 Arlington Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

Gisela Ashley • 7 Arlington Street, Cambridge, MA 02140
Phone: 617-354-6167 • email: ashleygga@aol.com

July 2, 2014

Subject: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington Street

Dear Sir or Madam:

When I took my morning walk today, I noticed the sign on number 42 Arlington Street regarding the meeting to determine whether the tree in front of the property should be removed. I have lived on Arlington Street for almost twenty years and I am opposed to cutting it down. The tree appears healthy and provides needed shade on a hot day such as today when the temperature is above 90 degrees. Additionally, it is visually beautiful in any of the other three seasons.

I am not sure why there is a need to remove this tree, however, the existing cable and electrical wires draped along all of the streets in this section of Cambridge are unsightly. Although residents on the street need access to computers, phones, televisions, etc., there are competing technologies which serve the same purpose without chopping down trees. There is a beautiful maple tree in front of my home, and several years ago, the top of the tree was just lobbed off so it would not interfere with the installation of additional cable.

I am unable to attend the meeting on July 8th, however, you may read this letter at the meeting. Please keep me up-to-date regarding the outcome.

Thanks and regards,

Gisela Ashley

Lefcourt, David

From: CambridgeTrees [cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov]
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 9:13 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: FW: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington Street
Attachments: OppositionToTreeRemoval.doc

From: Adriane Bishko[SMTP:VISIONTOWORDS@COMCAST.NET]
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 9:13:38 PM
To: CambridgeTrees
Subject: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington Street
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Sir or Madam:

I cannot attend the meeting on July 8. Please see the attached letter in opposition to the proposed tree removal. Thank you.

Best,
Adriane Bishko
5 Arlington Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

Adriane Bishko • 5 Arlington Street, Cambridge, MA 02140
Phone: 617-868-5123 • Email: visiontowords@comcast.net

June 28, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

There are signs along Arlington Street, one at number 42, announcing that there will be a city hearing to determine whether this tree, and possibly others, will be cut down. The tree at that location is a beautiful tree, well over 100 years old, and it would be very sad to see it go.

The City has already destroyed one tree at 33 Arlington. I realize that some of the branches were in the way of the power lines. However, some care might have been taken to preserve more of the tree's integrity. What is left is essentially an 8-foot stump with no branches or leaves.

Arlington is a lovely street, lined with elegant Victorian homes and beautiful old shade trees that enhance the property values. I hope that the City Arborist and this Committee will show discretion, and refrain from cutting down additional shade trees along Arlington.

Although I cannot attend the meeting on July 8, I give you permission to read this letter on that date. Please inform me of the results. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Adriane Bishko

Lefcourt, David

From: CambridgeTrees [cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov]
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 7:57 PM
To: Lefcourt, David
Subject: FW: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington St.
Attachments: TreeRemovOpposition.doc

From: Carolyn Stonewell[SMTP:CSTONEWELL@COMCAST.NET]
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 7:57:44 PM
To: CambridgeTrees
Subject: Opposition to Tree Removal at 42 Arlington St.
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Please see attached letter in opposition to proposed tree removal. Thank you.

Carolyn & Brian Stonewell

Carolyn Russell Stonewell
7 Arlington Street / 56, Cambridge, Mass. 02140
Phone (617) 441-3277 Cell: 617-230-3469 E-Mail cstonewell@comcast.net

June 28, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

My husband and I both live at the address above in Cambridge, MA, and have resided here for 20 years. We are very concerned because we saw a notice on a very old and large tree (that still looks healthy) in front of 42 Arlington St. The notice is a bit confusing but the gist of it seems to be that there will be a public hearing in early July to determine if this tree will be cut down.

We would attend the hearing, but we will be on vacation on that date. We are letting the city of Cambridge know by this e-mail that we strongly oppose the cutting down of this tree, when it looks like it pruning it would do the trick; however, the pruning must be done skillfully. Another tree in front of a house at the corner of Arlington St. and Walnut Ave. was pruned recently and looks terrible. The tree has been reduced to a trunk with its limbs all chopped off.

In recent years at least three of four trees on Walnut Ave. and some on Arlington St. have been cut down – perhaps because they needed to be; nevertheless, this neighborhood is losing its elegant old maples, and oaks, and other types of trees. Please do not cut down this tree in front of 42 Arlington St. on the southwest corner of Arlington and Washington Ave.

We give permission for this letter to be read at the hearing. Please apprise us of the results. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn & Brian Stonewell

July 8, 2014

Subject: Hearing regarding the large tree at the corner of Arlington Street and Washington Avenue

Dear City of Cambridge Arborist and Public Works Department:

I live at 42 Arlington Street. The subject tree is right in front of my house. My wife and I are against the removal of the tree unless it is affected by a serious blight. It is a beautiful specimen and I believe it is over 100 years old. It is a source of oxygen, shade, shelter for birds and squirrels, and we sincerely enjoy having it at our front door. It is part of the natural landscape and took many years to reach its size with a 3' girth and soaring limbs above.

It appears to us that the tree does need some pruning which should encourage some of the new branches that have sprouted recently. We care about the preservation of this tree so much that we would be willing to contribute to the annual cost of pruning it and maintaining it in good health.

Thank you for your willingness to hear our opinions.

Sincerely,

Caroline Lindeke Robert Wolff

Caroline Lindeke and Robert Wolff

42 Artlington Street, Cambridge

TREE HEARING

7-8-14

SIGN-IN

Kathleen M. Drew, 28 Tremont St.

Nicholas Alexander 8 Appleton Terrace Cambridge

CHRIS DREW, 28 TREMONT ST

Kevin Yearwood 15 Cameron Ave Cambridge

A.L. [illegible] 34 ASH ST Camb

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Removal of Public Shade Trees
City of Cambridge, Department of Public Works

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 3 and 4, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 8th, 2014 at 5:30 pm at 147 Hampshire St, Cambridge, Mass., to consider the removal of the following public tree(s):

1. 45 Fresh Pond Pkwy (on Grozier Rd) – Removal of 32.4" sugar maple due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
2. 28 Tremont St – Removal of 30" Norway maple due to canopy dieback and cavity in trunk. Location will be replanted.
3. 24 Norris St – Removal of 2 Norway maple trees (13.4" & 14.5") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.
4. 671 Concord Ave – Removal of 9.2" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
5. 7 Fairview Ave – Removal of 6.5" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
6. 1730 Mass Ave – Removal of 8.8" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
7. 2409 Mass Ave – Removal of 16.1" ash tree due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted.
8. 2409 Mass Ave – Removal of 9.6" ash tree due to cavity at base of trunk. Location will be replanted.
9. 2500 Mass Ave – Removal of 2 ash trees (11.2" & 5.6") due to canopy dieback and structural issues. Location will be replanted.
10. 2505 Mass Ave – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.8" & 6") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.
11. Mass Ave (at Clarendon Ave) – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.2" & 6") due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.
12. 21 Orchard St – Removal of 14.1" ash tree due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted.
13. 66 Sherman St (on Cadbury Rd) – Removal of 2 ash trees (6.5" & 10.2") due to wounding along trunk. Location will be replanted.
14. 42 Arlington St – Removal of 36.3" ash tree due to canopy dieback. Location will be replanted.
15. 146 Brattle St – Removal of 13.6" ash tree due to structural issues. Location will be replanted.

The tree(s) identified above have been posted for public inspection. Any objections to their removal must be submitted in writing to the City Arborist, prior to or during the hearing. The mailing address for the City Arborist is Department of Public Works, City of Cambridge, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; phone: 617-349-6433 email: cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov