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222 Church Road - Cheltenham

Date: **April 1st, 2022**

To: **Mr. Edward A. Diasio, Esquire**
Wisler Pearlstine, LLP
Blue Bell Executive Campus
460 Norristown Road, Suite 110
Blue Bell, PA 19422-2323

Cc: **Mr. Henry Sekawungu - Director of Planning and Zoning**

From: **John Hosbach – Rockwell**

Reference: **Tree review - 222 Church Road - Cheltenham**

File# **7282**

Dear Mr. Diasio,

Pursuant to the townships request, we met at the aforementioned referenced site to review the following. My goal was to also look at the subject urban forest and to review any mitigation tasks that could be employed to assist with the township and resident concerns as it relates to the subject canopy.

- I. Assist the applicant in performing a standard 1/10 of an acre plot sampling to determine all tree 3'-5" in DBH (please note that all trees 6" or greater were captured on the previous plan set) to satisfy the township ordinance. Species, size and condition were to be tallied.
- II. Review the subject natural areas (non-landscape amenity) and determine how we can increase urban forest mitigation efforts.
- III. Review and subject trees that could potentially be preserved.
- IV. Review Lot 10 for preservation efforts.

Attendees of the meeting included Myself, Julia Detwiler from the township, Steven Kline on behalf of the applicant and the survey staff from Mr. Blue's Office.

General

The subject site consists of three landscape settings – a degraded tree mass with an invasive understory (buffers currently existing), landscape amenity (trees, shrubs and perennials around the dwelling to be preserved) and a riparian buffer/open space along the Tookany creek.

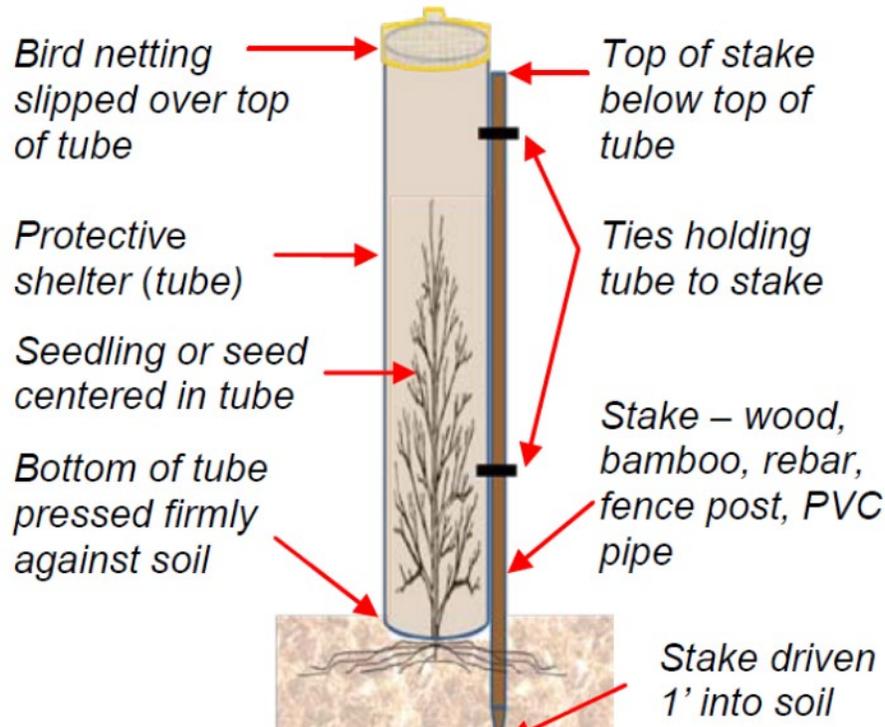
The subject buffers within the LOD amplify the growing concern of woodland management. Unfortunately, these subject areas are degraded beyond repair and inhabit numerous invasive species, failing mature trees and low stocking levels. However, it is in the best interest of the applicant to some degree, to mitigate these buffers beyond the standard landscape planting. This will enhance the neighboring properties visual perspective, increase biodiversity as it relates to tree stocking, reduce storm water concerns and provide a solid structure for wildlife.

Shade / evergreen – Overstory Tree Species	Size
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> / black gum	6' minimum
<i>Quercus phellos</i> / willow oak	6' minimum
<i>Betula lenta</i> / sweet birch	6' minimum
<i>Prunus serotina</i> / black cherry	6' minimum
<i>Betula Alleghaniensis</i> / Yellow Birch	6' minimum
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> / Common Hackberry	6' minimum
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> / Kentucky Coffee Tree	6' minimum
<i>Juglans cinerea</i> / Butternut	6' minimum
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> / Eastern Redcedar	6' minimum
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> / Cucumber Magnolia	6' minimum
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> /Swamp White Oak	6' minimum
<i>Quercus Muehlenbergii</i> / Chinkapin Oak	6' minimum
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> / Common Persimmon	6' minimum

Understory trees	Size
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> / White Fringetree	4-5' minimum
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> / Pagoda Dogwood	4-5' minimum
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> / Eastern Redbud	4-5' minimum
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> / Sweetbay Magnolia	4-5' minimum
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> / American Hophornbeam	4-5' minimum
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> / Shadblow Serviceberry	4-5' minimum
<i>Asimina triloba</i> / PawPaw	4-5' minimum
<i>Cornus florida</i> / White Flowering Dogwood	4-5' minimum

Shrub / Forb layer	Size
Common Ninebark	36"
Mapleleaf Viburnum	36"
Black Elderberry	36"
New Jersey tea	36"
Red twig dogwood	36"
Arrowwood viburnum	36"
Witch alder	36"
Swamp azalea	36"
Winterberry	36"
Summersweet	36"
Virginia sweetspire	36"
Buffer floor seeding	Seeding utilizing shady woodland seed mix

Properly Installed Tree Shelter

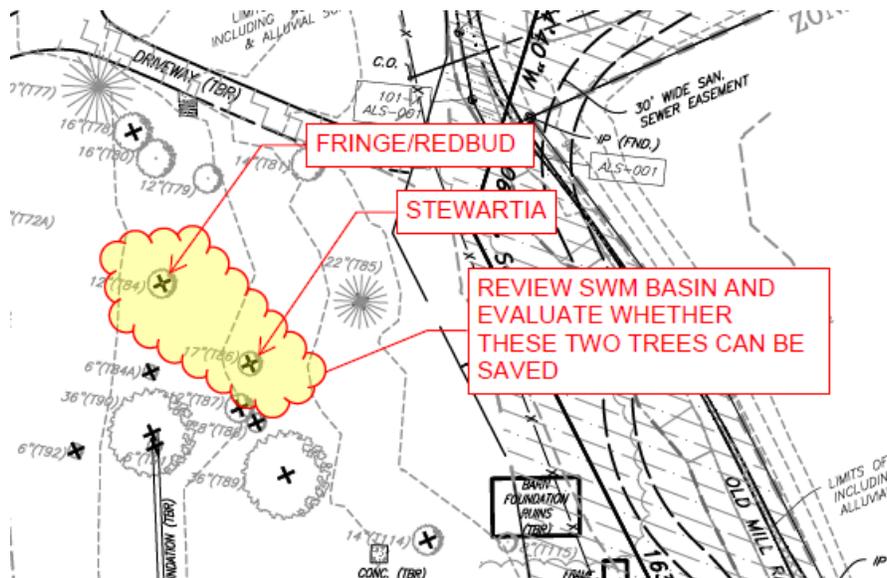


Planting whip detail

Tree to be Preserved

Within the LOD, there are numerous trees to be removed. I reviewed these subject trees and found that a declining and unmaintained canopy exist. To the untrained eye, it appears that there is a significant canopy. However, I observed a large percentage of oaks with bacterial leaf scorch, beech with bark disease and a very low longevity rating due to the lack of care over the last 20 years. A diverse planting plan will create a sustainable landscape and a diverse species palate.

There were two specific trees I requested be preserved. A mature *Stewardia* and a mature fringe tree. The applicant is looking into the possible of shifting the storm water management system to preserve these two trees. I have attached a tree protection detail to be utilized.



Lots 4 and 5

To assist the adjacent residents near Lots 4/5, I recommend the potential of planting on their property to assist with the screening abatement of the subject drive lane and construction activity/future homes. A stand of evergreen species will provide lasting benefits to the neighbors of this subject area. Applicant to update on the status of this discussion.

Mature existing trees to remain

It was fortunate to see that the healthy trees that inhabit the property (near the proposed dwelling to remain) are to remain. These trees provide intense benefits and will maintain the mature appearance of the site. Tree protection will be required. Please Note – I have also included plant facts sheets of species for the use of landscape purposes that should be utilized in the landscaped areas around the new homes and common areas.

Maintenance

It is my recommendation that all landscape plants shall be maintained to best management practices. This will also include the natural areas and forest management areas. Vine and invasive management, deer protection and general cultural practices should be written into the plan and also within the future HOA bylaws/covenants.

Lot 10

Lot 10 is to remain untouched as it sits within the buffer of the Tookany Creek. This area should be preserved to the fullest extent. Removing invasives, controlling vines and maintaining a healthy riparian buffer is warranted. Further discussion is warranted.

Final

In closing, the subject site and its relation to the existing canopy, was noted as being below average for health and longevity. My goal is to have obtain a sustainable and ecological sound plant palate and landscape. I want to assure the neighboring properties that a systematic and strategic landscape goal will protect their properties' and provide ongoing benefits to the proposed improvents.

I will be happy to meet with the niegbnors to discuss.



John Rockwell Hosbach Jr., RCA, Urban Forester | Principal



CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE

I, John Rockwell Hosbach, Jr., certify that:

- I have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or the property that is the subject of this report and have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved.
- The analysis, opinions and conclusions stated herein are my own and are based on current scientific procedures and facts.
- My analysis, opinions and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices.
- No one provided significant professional assistance to me, except as indicated within the report.
- My compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party nor upon the results of the assessment, the attainment of stipulated results, or the occurrence of any subsequent events.

I further certify that I am a member in good standing of the American Society of Consulting Arborists and the International Society of Arboriculture. I have been involved in the field of Arboriculture in a full-time capacity for a period of more than 25 years.

