TOWN OF ARLINGTON
Department of Public Works
Office of Tree Warden
51 Grove Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476
*Office(781) 316-3114 Fax (781) 316-3109*

July 27, 2017

**Board of Selectmen**

**RE: Public Sade Tree Hearing: 40 Webcowet Road**

Dear Selectmen,

The following is a summary of events concerning the Ash Tree located in front of 40 Webcowet Road.

Mr. Bradley, the representative for the contractor contacted my office to discuss the removal of the Ash Tree in front of 40 Webcowet Road, to install a new driveway for a newly constructed home. The tree is healthy, therefore a Public Tree Hearing is required under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87.

The hearing was held on July 10, 2017 at 10:00am. Ten residents from the neighborhood attended the hearing with, signatures, photos, and letters, objecting the removal of the Ash Tree. There was no representation from the contractors camp at the hearing.

Also, the residents raised concerns about the contractors practices in 2015. Apparently, the contractor removed and transplanted Public Shade Trees on Webcowet Road without permission.

In conclusion, a Public Shade Tree Hearing was held and there was an objection. It is difficult to settle the matter at the hearing, when there is no representative from the side who initiates the requests for removal.

If the Select Board requests my presents at the meeting please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Lecuivre, MCA
Arlington Tree Warden
Department of Public Works
51 Grove Street
Arlington, MA 02476

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
Department of Public Works
Office of Tree Warden
51 Grove Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476
*Office(781) 316-3114 Fax (781) 316-3109*

RECEIVED
2017 JUN 26 AM 9:56
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
ARLINGTON, MASS.

# LEGAL NOTICE
# TREE HEARING
# Town of Arlington, MA
# Natural Resources Division

In accordance with Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, a public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at:

Place: 51 Grove Street, Lower Floor Meeting Room

Date: July 10, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m.

The hearing is to consider the proposed removal of:

**Ash in front of 40 Webcowet Road. (DBH 18") by request of builder to install driveway.**

The tree identified has been posted for public inspection. Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Any person objecting to the removal of this tree may attend the hearing or appeal in writing prior to the hearing. Letters should be addressed to:

Arlington Town Tree Warden, 51 Grove Street, Arlington, MA 02476

# Tree Hearing 2017

Tim Lecuivre MCA

Arlington Tree Warden

James Bradley

40 Webcowet Road

Removal of 18" (DBH) Ash Tree "to install driveway"

7/10/17

10:00am

51 Groove St. Lower Floor Meeting Room

Attendance: 10 Residents from Webcowet Road and the surrounding neighborhood objecting for the tree removal, with additional letters. Their signatures and letters are provided.

Time: 10:00-11:00

(Not Present) Mr. Bradley would like to remove the Ash Tree to add new constructed home with enlarged driveway.

Each resident spoke for the objection for the tree removal and the importance of trees in the community.

# Tree Hearing 2017

| Name | Signature/ Date |
| --- | --- |
| Herb Rosenbluth | 7/10/17 |
| Estha Blachman | Estha Blachman 7/10/17 |
| LINDA L. ANNEAR | Linda L Annear 7/10/17 |
| WALTER CRONIN | 7/10/17 |
| Charlotte Milar | 7/10/17 |
| Kendra Griesman | 7/10/17 |
| Jim Annear | 7/10/17 |
| Olga Comninos | 7/10/17 |
| Fran McDonald | 7-10-17 |
| Maureen Kelly | 7/10/17 |
| Jo Anne Preston | 7/10/17 |
| Judith Dykstra | 7-10-17 |

July 10, 2017

We oppose the removal of the healthy, mature street tree in front of 40 Webcowet Road.

Many trees have been removed from Webcowet Road over the last ten years, significantly diminishing the neighborhood tree canopy.

The developer's stated reason for removing the tree, that it is not conveniently located for constructing a driveway, is not a good reason when compared to the benefits of reducing air and noise pollution, reducing heat and wind, and limiting water runoff.

Replacement trees are too young to adequately compensate for the benefits of this large street tree.

We would also like to be consulted about any tree plan for the potential removal of a protected tree on the site of 40 Webcowet Road.

| Name | Address |
|---|---|
| [illegible] | 53 SHERBORN ST ARLINGTON, MA 02474 |
| [illegible] Burt | 42 Mystic Lake Dr. Arlington MA 02474 |
| Tracy Bartlett | 47 Mystic Lake Drive, #2, Arlington MA 02474 |
| Frances McDonald | 51 Webcowet Road |
| Joan K Shea | 51 Webcowet Rd. |
| Jo Anne Preston | 42 Mystic Lake Drive 02474 |
| Linda & Jim Annear | 22 Webcowet Rd 02474 |
| Steffen [illegible] | 22 Webcowet Rd 02474 |
| Estha Blachman | 26 Webcowet Rd. 02474 |
| Herb Rosenbluth | 34 " |
| Hannah Simon | 34 " |
| Olga Comninos | 22 Orchard Ter 02474 |
| Maureen Kelly | 51 Mystic Lake Dr. Arlington MA |

My name is Herb Rosenbluth. I live at 34 Webcowet Road, next door to the property in question at #40.
As a taxpayer and homeowner I request that permission to remove this tree be denied.
It is not in the interest of the town of Arlington to allow developers to cut down trees for their convenience.

The trees provide shade and aesthetic pleasure for me and my neighbors. Some trees further down the street have been removed by developers and that has negatively altered the character of the neighborhood. Arlington is known for its trees. Without them the neighborhood feels sterile. Cutting down the tree in front of the house next door and replacing it with a huge concrete driveway would create a real eyesore.

Since this tree belongs to the Town and not to the developer, I as a taxpayer and homeowner request that permission to remove this tree be denied.

July 10, 2017

Tree Warden of the Town or Arlington
51 Grove Street
Arlington, MA 02474
RE: REMOVAL OF ASH TREE AT 40 WEBCOWET RD

Dear Sir:

I am writing to oppose the removal of the mature, healthy Ash street tree located in front of 40 Webcowet Road by a developer.

It is important to consider the aesthetics of the neighborhood during times of construction. Many people benefit from the shade and beauty the tree provides. The healthy and mature trees should not be taken down just because they are in the way of a developer. Our neighborhood has changed in the last ten years. We have seen our single family homes demolished and replaced with duplexes. Each time this is done a tree has been taken down in order for the developer to put in a drive way. When developers replace the trees they have removed, the replacements are of lesser quality and maturity and will not provide the shade, we have now.

My Husband, who is sixty-five years old, grew up on Webcowet Rd. We presently live on Mystic Lake Drive which runs into Webcowet Rd. To the best of his recollection, the tree, in question, was planted after a hurricane hit in the 1950's. That shows how long it takes for a tree to mature. We feel it would be a shame to take this tree down. It takes a life time to grow a tree like this and it is unlikely that the residents of this neighborhood would live to enjoy the benefits of the new tree.

When construction begins, every precaution should be taken to protect this tree.

Again, as resident of this area, I strongly oppose the removal of the mature ash tree located at 40 Webcowet Road.

Sincerely,

Maureen T. Kelly

Maureen T. Kelly
51 Mystic Lake Dr.
Arlington, MA 02474

51 Grove Street

Arlington, MA 02476

July 9, 2017

TO: The Tree Warden, Town of Arlington

RE: Street Ash Tree at 40 Webcowet Road

I oppose the removal of the mature, healthy Ash street tree located in front of 40 Webcowet Road for the purposes of a developer installing a driveway.

The town of Arlington has experienced a rapid diminishing of its tree canopy over the last decade as a recent survey found. On Webcowet Road alone, which is only two blocks long, at least six tree streets have been removed over the last ten years. Some were diseased but other were healthy, mature trees that limited basement flooding from storm water runoff, reduced air and noise pollution, and protected houses from heat and wind.

Where developers have installed replacement trees, these trees offer little of the benefits of the mature trees that they were intended to replace and, overall, due to poor planting, inferior saplings, and/or lack of watering, they have not prospered.

In order to preserve our valuable tree canopy, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 and the Town of Arlington bylaw Article 16 (Tree Protection and Preservation) strive to protect the public shade trees. The intent of these laws is to prevent publicly owned street trees from being removed just because they are not conveniently located. This is apparently the reason the developer wants to remove the Ash tree in front of 40 Webcowet Road.

Additionally, it would be important for the town tree warden to ensure the survival of the street tree by determining the critical root zone around the tree so that digging in this area (already begun) will not damage the root system of this mature Ash tree.

The loss of the large protected tree in the back of the property would necessitate a tree plan. I and my neighbors would ask that plan assure the provision for the same amount of water absorption, not just in 20 years but right after construction. The protected tree protects our basements from flooding.

Jo Anne Preston

42 Mystic Lake Drive

Arlington, MA 02474

July 9, 2017

Dear Town of Arlington Tree Warden,

We understand that there is a hearing to consider the proposed removal of a tree in front of 40 Webcowet Road, Arlington, MA.

We would not like to see this tree removed. It is a beautiful healthy tree. Walking around the neighborhood, you can see many other trees that are in need of attention.

We are not able to attend the hearing because of work.

We have lived in this neighborhood for 30 years at 54 Sherborn Street.

Thank you for your time regarding this issue.

John Mansfield

Judith A. Mansfield

Judith A. Mansfield

July 9th, 2017

88 Webcowet Rd
Arlington
MA
02474

Arlington Tree Warden
51 Grove Street
Arlington
MA 02476

Dear Sirs

Re: Proposed removal of Ash in front of 40 Webcowet Road

We object to the proposed removal of the Ash tree situated in front of 40 Webcowet Rd Arlington.

Our objection is four fold. Firstly, on Webcowet Rd and the neighboring streets there is a current trend for removing established trees leaving wide open spaces which we feel is removing this neighborhood of its leafy charm. Many of the trees that have been removed have not been replaced.

Secondly as far as we are aware this tree is healthy and does not pose an immediate risk to the public. Sadly this cannot be said for some of the other trees on the street which even to the untrained observer look diseased and rotten. We strongly feel that this healthy tree should be saved to protect the mature canopy of the street from being significantly eroded.

Thirdly, earlier in the year the town offered a 'Community Tree Canopy Program, Spring 2017' with the focus on replacing trees in this area of Arlington (Thomson School district). We feel the removal of this healthy tree is in direct conflict with this wonderful initiative.

Finally, if the sole reason for this tree to be destroyed is so another cookie cutter duplex home can be built 'with ease' on the lot, we urge you to consider the larger implications for this neighborhood and deny this application for removal.

Best regards,

Craig J Hunter and Sally A Royce
craigandsally@outlook.com 781-530-0757

Tree Warden
Attn: Tim Lecuivre
51 Grove St
Arlington MA 02474

Cc Mike Rademacher

Re Tree hearing

Pursuant to the regulations found on the Town of Arlington web site and MA state law chapter 87. I am formally objecting to the removal of the Ash street tree located at 40 Webcowet road.

My objection is as follows:

1.) Said tree is healthy, native species and provides economic and aesthetic value to neighbors and town at large.
2.) An alternative lot plan by the developer would allow for the tree to be saved.

I understand per the regulations my objection may be appealed by the home owner to the Board of Selectmen. I will encourage the selectmen to reject this appeal because this tree is a publically owned asset and should be treated as such.

Sincerely,

John Ellis

59 Teel St

Arlington MA 02474

**From:** "Request/Answer Center" <arlingtonma@mycusthelp.net>
**To:** tschanda@town.arlington.ma.us
**Date:** 07/05/2017 07:34 PM
**Subject:** Incoming General DPW Request

---

7/5/2017 7:33:12 PM

General Public Works

65 HUNTINGTON RD

Dear Town colleagues, Given Mr. Lecuivre's email auto-response during his off hours, I am forwarding this email to the Town Request/Answer Center; however, I didn't find any categories that seemed to fit the description of my request. I hope this one is sufficient. thank you. Michelle Durocher ---------- From: Michelle Durocher Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 7:27 PM To: tlecuivre@town.arlington.ma.us Subject: tree removal request: 40 Webcowet Dear Mr. Lecuivre, I'm writing to request that the tree removal request be denied at 40 Webcowet. I visited the site over the weekend and found this mature tree to be healthy and a huge asset to the neighborhood and streetscape. Given the adjacent areas that provide many other design choices for the homeowner to site a new driveway, I don't think it is fair to the community to remove this shared natural resource which enhances the property values of other nearby homes and also provides improved air quality for residents and habitat for wildlife. The adjacent sidewalk is also in perfect condition, so clearly the root structure of the tree is not negatively impacting the sidewalk navigability. There are no community benefits to removing this tree, only negative impacts. I respectfully request that this town tree not be removed. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Michelle Durocher Town Meeting Member, Pr. 19 781-641-4830

MichelleDurocher

W082971-070517

Do **NOT** respond to this email. It is for informational purposes only. Click this link to review Request.
https://mycusthelpadmin.com/ARLINGTONMA/Zadmin/ServiceRequests/Details.aspx?id=82971

Christine P. Deshler
65 Huntington Road
Arlington, MA 02474

July 5, 2017

Arlington Town Tree Warden
51 Grove Street
Arlington, MA 02476

RE: 40 Webcowet Road

Dear Tree Warden:

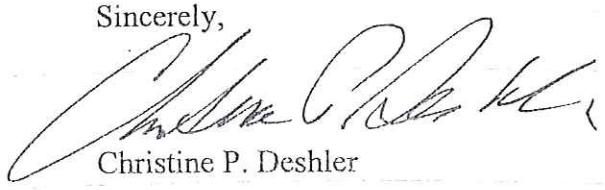
I write to object to the removal of the ash tree in front of 40 Webcowet Road, Arlington, Massachusetts.

The street tree is not only a healthy native tree, but is perhaps the most attractive tree in that neighborhood. There is no basis for permitting the removal of that public tree other than to help a private developer, who should not have assumed that the town would assent to the destruction of a street tree to assist him in his private business venture.

I again remind the town how much of the taxpayers' money is spent annually on buying and planting trees that will take years to reach the maturity of this tree, assuming they survive at all. To cut down healthy native street trees makes no fiscal sense.

Finally, on June 2, 2017, the Town Manager issued a statement on the Paris Accord. The Town Manager pronounced that "the Town's position remains the same in regard to its status as a Green Community and toward all the work that we do regarding energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and climate change adaptation. Past programs such as LED streetlights, fuel-efficient vehicles for Town use, and solar panels on schools, plus our participation in Arlington Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) continue [to] make Arlington a leader on the local level regarding all matters related to climate change and protecting the future of our planet". For the town to permit the removal of a healthy native tree, for private gain, raises a serious question as to the town's true commitment to confronting climate change. Indeed, it leaves one to wonder whether the Town Manager's statement was mere political posturing.

Sincerely,



Christine P. Deshler

MELISSA H. CARR
*hiattcarr@gmail.com*
69 Webcowet Road, Arlington, MA 02474
(781) 858-9674

July 7, 2017

Tree Warden
Town of Arlington
51 Grove St.
Arlington MA 02476

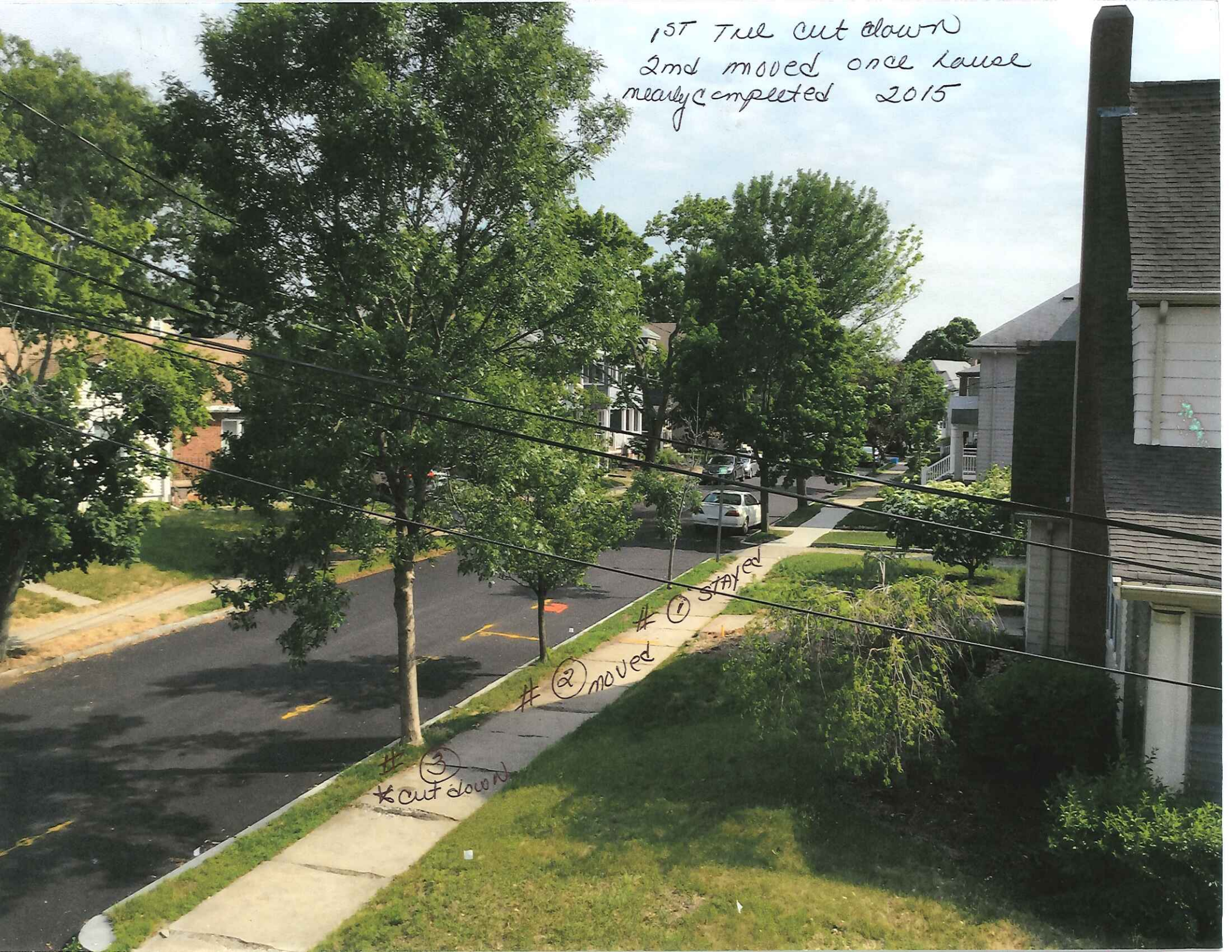
RE: Removal of ash tree in front of 40 Webcowet Road

We object to the removal of the tree in question. It is a beautiful specimen of a species that is struggling. Please do not allow the tree to be removed. Given the motivation for removal, please require that the builder scrupulously protect the tree so that no accidents befall it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa H. Carr

Jessica L. Chloros


1ST Tree cut down
2nd moved once house nearly completed 2015
# ① stayed
# ② moved
# ③ cut down

July | Aug 2015

Webcowet Kc
#18 + #20





July → Oct / 2015




#1 TREE
TREE
#2
(moved)