March 10, 2018

Mr. Timothy Lecuivre, Tree Warden
Town of Arlington
51 Grove Street
Arlington, MA 02476

Re: Proposed Removal of Ash Trees Across from 40 and 46 Foster Street

Dear Mr. Lecuivre:

I am writing to you in accordance with Arlington regulations and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 to object to the proposed removal of two Ash trees located across the street from 40 and 46 Foster Street. The former is scheduled for a Tree Hearing on March 12, and the latter on March 19.

Both of these public shade trees are healthy, native species that provide environmental and aesthetic benefits to the neighborhood and the broader community. I believe they can be preserved without compromising the plans for renovating the Gibbs School.

I understand the tree across from 40 Foster may be removed to make way for a curb cut across from the corner of Foster and Andrew Streets. By my measurement, there is over 21 feet from the projection of the Andrew Street curb line onto curb on the opposite side of Foster and the trunk if the subject tree. This should provide plenty of room to construct a curb cut without damaging or removing the tree, and the Town should ensure that it retains contractors who can do so.

The tree across from 46 Foster is proposed for removal to widen Foster Street for an auto pick-up drop-off area. The recommendation is for approximately 110 feet of curb to be moved for this purpose to accommodate four or five cars. This much removal seems excessive to accommodate four cars when only 88 feet would be required for parallel parking under Arlington's Zoning Bylaw. I have measured the distance between the subject tree and the shade tree nearest to it as approximately 130 feet. There should be ample room to accommodate the widened curb area while protecting this tree. Finally, it should be noted that this tree is almost next to the intersection of Foster and Andrew Street. If it is even legal under Massachusetts law to park so close to the intersection, it will certainly be dangerous for drivers to be entering the intersection so soon after leaving the curb. The parking should end well before this tree.

Thank you for considering these comments. I trust that you and the Board of Selectmen will be as diligent in protecting these Ash trees as you were recently in protecting the Ash tree on Webcowet Street. It is important that the Town holds itself to a standard at least as high as that to which it holds private developers. And if the Town is going to live up to its Green Community designation, it certainly should not be removing healthy shade trees to accommodate increasing automobile use.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Loreti

Christopher Loreti
56 Adams St.
Arlington, MA 02474

cc: Mr. Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer