



THE F.A. BARTLETT TREE EXPERT COMPANY

1290 E. MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 3067, STAMFORD, CT 06905-0067

Site:

42 Wharf Street
Bluffton, SC 29909

To whom it may concern,

Purpose:

This report is to follow up on my site visit to 42 Wharf Street on July 9, 2024. At the time of my visit, I inspected one Live Oak, one Laurel Oak, one Magnolia, one Cedar, and one Dogwood on an undeveloped lot in Old Town Bluffton. The purpose of my visit was to evaluate the listed trees for potential hazardous concerns.

Observations:

1. The Live Oak is located at the back of the lot near a fence line and close to the property line of another undeveloped lot. The Live Oak appears to be healthy, but due to the proximity of construction, much care would need to be taken to avoid damage to the root structure and trunk of this tree. Damage from construction would cause the tree to become stressed and it could attract Ambrosia Beetles, which would quickly kill the tree. Any other susceptible or stressed trees in the area would need to be treated to help prevent Ambrosia Beetle damage. The Live Oak could also decline or die from the root system being damaged, due to the proximity to the construction site. Both outcomes could cause the tree to die and become a hazard to the future house, neighbor's house, pedestrians, and any other valuable items that would be underneath the drop zone.
2. The Laurel Oak is located near the center of the lot and near the neighbor's house to the right of the lot. The Laurel Oak has lost some large branches in the past few years that raise some concern. Where some of these branches have broken off there are signs of decay. I have attached a picture of an area of concern on this Laurel Oak. In addition to this, the Laurel Oak also has a large co-dominant stem that is susceptible to splitting in the right conditions. Due to the proximity to where construction will take place, it could be very difficult to avoid damage to the root structure and trunk of this tree. Damage from construction would cause the tree to become stressed and it could attract Ambrosia Beetles, which would quickly kill the tree. Any other susceptible or stressed trees in the area would need to be treated to help prevent Ambrosia Beetle damage. This would cause the trees to die and become a hazard to the future house, neighbor's house, pedestrians, and any other valuable items that would be underneath the drop zone.
3. The Cedar and Dogwood are at the front of the lot near Wharf Street. The Dogwood has several dead branches and dead tips and is in poor condition. The Cedar has poor branch structure and is in fair condition. Both trees will more than likely be in the way of construction equipment and will need to be removed.
4. The Magnolia is at the front left of the lot near the property line and near Wharf Street. The Magnolia has some scale insects present and leaf spots. Beyond that the tree seems to be healthy. Due to the proximity to where construction will take place, much care would

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need to be taken to avoid damage to the root structure and trunk of this tree. Damage from construction would cause the tree to become stressed and they could attract Ambrosia Beetles, which would quickly kill the tree. Any other susceptible or stressed trees in the area would need to be treated to help prevent Ambrosia Beetle damage. The Magnolia could also decline or die from the root system being damaged, due to the proximity to the construction site. Both outcomes could cause the tree to die and become a hazard to the future house, neighbor's house, pedestrians, and any other valuable items that would be underneath the drop zone.

Recommendations:

For the Laurel Oak, Dogwood, and Cedar - Tree removal and stump grinding.

Due to the proximity to the construction zone/future house, I do not feel that they would survive the construction damage. During construction, dirt is compacted, roots are cut or crushed, and trunks can be damaged if not careful. It is a very difficult and long process to save trees that have been damaged by construction, and most of the time, they cannot be saved. All risks associated with these trees would be eliminated if the trees are removed.

For the Live Oak and Magnolia - To try to preserve a tree during construction, a silt fence would need to be installed around the trees, extending at least 3 feet of radii per 1 inch diameter of the DBH. Trees would need to be fertilized 2-3 times a year to help relieve stress and encourage root growth. Mulch would need to be laid down in the area to help reduce compaction and root invigoration of the trees would need to be done after construction is completed to help reduce compaction and encourage root growth. A preventative treatment for Ambrosia Beetles would also be recommended. Even with an adequate protection zone, damage could still occur as the root zone for a tree can extend out 2-3 times the size of the dripline of the given tree. The Magnolia should also be treated for scale insects and leaf spots. If care cannot be taken to protect and preserve these trees during the construction process, they will need to be removed to eliminate all risk associated with these trees.

Thank you and please contact me with further questions.

Sincerely,

Madolyn Henderson
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