

Dear Planning Commission,

I wish to remove 2 trees from my property. The first tree that I would like to remove is a pecan tree. The tree is directly behind my house, only 16 feet from my bedroom with many large branches that overhang the house. The tree regularly drops branches on the house damaging the roof and siding. The location of our property also magnifies the frequency of this as we live across the street from the airport that experiences higher winds due to the open field. The tree is absolutely a major concern during any hurricane, as my wife and young son are forced to avoid that area of the home under the tree as a precaution for their safety. I have included pictures below of locations where previous branches have fallen as well as a branch that fell just last week. The largest branch of the tree overhangs the house, so removal of that branch will be a significant injury to the tree. The concern for this is intensified because the tree no longer heals damaged areas properly. Previous fallen branches have resulted in cavities and rot that lead into the trunk and major limbs of the tree.

The second tree that I would like to remove is a birch tree. This tree is next to the fence where the power lines are located. Years of trimming the tree back from the powerlines have resulted in it growing to an unhealthy shape.

I am also working with a contractor and architect to build a detached garage behind my house where the tree is currently located. For these reasons, I do not believe that my situation requires mitigation under the Moncks Corner Tree Ordinance 16.106.4.B or C which state:

3. Grand trees may be removed upon the issuance of a valid permit by the Town Administrator or his/her designee if, in the determination of Staff, the trees meet the conditions for removal without mitigation. The Town Administrator reserves the right to forward any grand tree removal permits to the Planning Commission for review and issuance.
4. Trees removed under these conditions do not require mitigation:
 - A. Tree(s) is/are dead.
 - B. Tree(s) which pose(s) an imminent safety hazard to nearby buildings, persons, utility lines or vehicular traffic.
 - C. Trees which are located in the footprint of a proposed building or drive which cannot be reasonably relocated.

However, I am performing my own mitigation and planting replacement trees in better locations. I have 5 small saplings that I have grown from acorns that fell from the Angel Oak. These saplings are Live Oaks that will grow to be much larger than the trees they are replacing. I own the property next door as well so I will be spreading them across the two

properties. They are too small to meet mitigation requirements, but they are special to me, and I do not wish to purchase a weaker species from a hardware store in an effort to achieve a minimum trunk thickness. The research I have done on Live Oak trees shows that most Live Oaks that are grown in pots until they are large enough to meet mitigation sizes commonly have unhealthy roots. The roots grow into the shape of the pot and end up forming a ball. Once transplanted the roots are unable to spread sufficiently to protect the tree from high winds. As the tree gets bigger and the roots swell, they begin to choke each other and limit the flow of nutrients through the roots. The saplings that I am growing are already in specialty pots that prevent the roots from forming a ball. They are growing quickly, and they will be planted in their final location this October once the summer heat is gone. They should be about 2-3 feet tall by then. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Neil Melander

519 Whiteville Road



The Pecan Tree



Distance from my bedroom



A branch that just fell last week





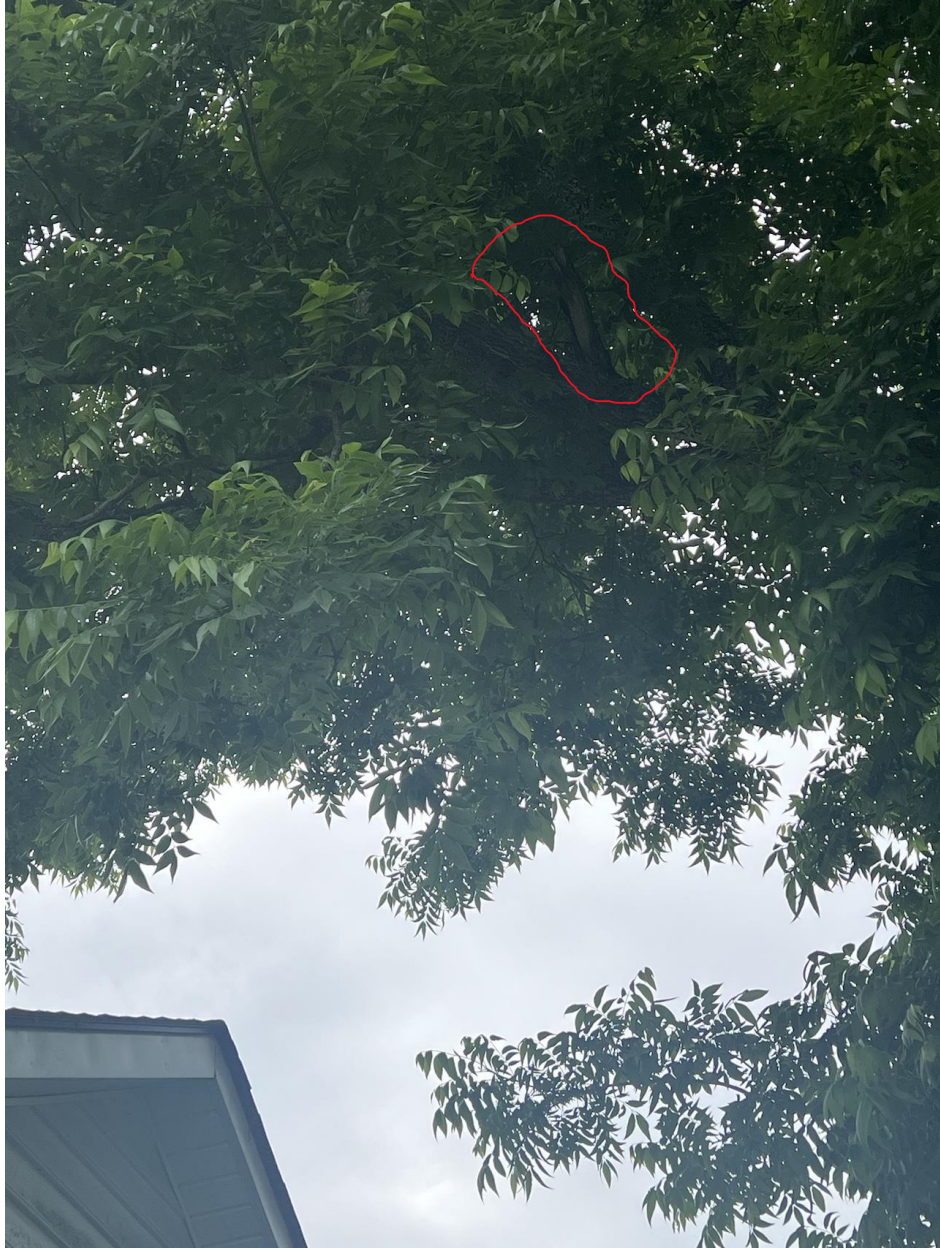




A previous branch that had fallen now has a rot cavity leading into the large branch



Another fallen limb



Limb that fell on my house last summer



The largest limb hangs over the house



Rot in the trunk that the tree will not repair



Tree wound after a limb was cut off, all wood is soft there



The birch tree



View from one side



View from opposite side



My children of the angel



Little sprouts 3/19/24



They are about 12-18" tall now 6/21/24