



The Lowcountry's Hometown

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TAFF REPORT

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Justin Westbrook, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request (TR-26-01) – 617 Resinwood Road

DATE: June 23, 2026

Background: The applicant, R & R Tree, has applied for a Tree Removal Request (TR-26-01) for one **Grand Tree** located at 617 Resinwood Road. A **Grand Tree** are defined as,

“any tree having a diameter at breast height (DBH) of twenty-four (24) inches or larger”.

The applicant reached out to Staff to express their desire to seek a permit to remove a large tree, a Live Oak, in excess of twenty-six and a half (26.5) inches. The applicant has expressed desire to remove without mitigation due to concerns over the tree’s roots potential damage to the house and the driveway. The applicant has expressed their desire to seek the Planning Commission’s permission to remove it without mitigation.

Procedural Issues: Per the Town’s Code of Ordinance (Article III, Chapter 16), grand trees may be removed without mitigation under the following circumstances:

- 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.
- D. Trees which are being cut as a commercial timber operation in accordance with the South Carolina Right to Practice Forestry Act. The Town requests but does not require that a 50-foot wide perimeter buffer of all existing trees be maintained in an undisturbed manner. Trees grown specifically for sale by commercial nurseries are exempt from the provisions of this article with respect to their removal from the commercial site upon which they are grown.
- E. Protected trees required to be removed to carry out a permitted wetland alteration and/or mitigation plan approved by the Army Corps of Engineers or South Carolina Office of Coastal Resource Management are exempt from the provisions of this article.
- F. Removal because of density or interference with the development of other trees.

- G. Removal of pine trees, unless permit is for multiple trees in which removal would constitute clear-cutting.
- H. Trees identified by the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council Non-Native Plant Species List.

Staff Analysis: Staff was able to attempt a visual inspection of the tree, which appears that the Live Oak tree is in good health. The applicant's provided a Tree Risk Assessment does indicate a "likely" probability of striking a target but does not indicate why. Staff do not believe the tree is subject to any additional circumstances that would warrant removal without mitigation.

Staff Recommendation: Without additional information provided, Staff believes the application does not warrant removal without mitigation as it provides none of the circumstances required by the Planning Commission to remove without mitigation. It is for these reasons that Staff recommends the Planning Commission deny the request to remove without mitigation for the tree.

Attachments: *Application (20260522)*
 Staff Pictures (20250526)