

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY**

**AGENDA**

**7:30 AM—Wednesday, April 13, 2011  
Portsmouth City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

1. Acceptance of Minutes of March 9, 2011 Meeting
2. Tree Removal Requests:
  - 180 Decatur Road
  - 95 Decatur Road
  - 76 Decatur Road
  - 303 Colonial Drive
  - 46 Columbia Street
  - 35 Elwyn Road
  - 84 Thornton Street
  - 180 New Castle Avenue (trees located on Ball Street)
3. Maple Haven City Drainage Project (presentation by David DesFosses and request for removal of tagged trees)
4. Update on Point of Graves Tree Planting
5. Pierce Island Committee Tree Request
6. Spring Planting List
7. Arbor Day Activities
8. Update on Tree Ordinance
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Respectfully submitted, Peter J. Loughlin-Chair

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY  
7:30 AM – Wednesday, March 9, 2011  
City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Law Library**

**Members Present:** Peter Loughlin, Chairman      Richard Adams, Vice-Chair  
John Bohenko, City Manager      June Rogers, Member  
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director      Carla Marvin, Member  
Everett Kern, General Forman      A.J. Dupere, Community Forester

Also present were David Moore, Asst. Community Development Director, Ralph Norwood, Gorrill & Palmer, Fred Borman, Joe Capobianco and Alan Gordon.

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. **Tree Removal Requests:**

• **Trees at Atlantic Heights Associated with Street Improvement Project**

David Moore reported this is the last project in the neighborhood and is similar to the other neighborhood projects. This project requires eighteen tree removals, most of which are in bad shape. There are thirty-nine new trees to be planted on these two streets. Other improvements include sidewalks, curbing, drainage improvements as well as water/sewer improvements.

Ralph Norwood summarized other project goals and decreasing the roadway. Mr. Norwood reported the minor change made on Porpoise Way was to extend some curbing and an additional tree. A major change made was the block on Concord Way between Saratoga and Kearsarge. Originally there was parking on both sides of the street, we eliminated parking on one side allowing us to have more green space and more room for tree plantings within the existing right-of-way. Another change on Concord from Kearsarge to Preble was eliminating majority of parking, leaving a total of six spaces giving more green space and room to plant trees.

David Moore stated that on street on and off peak demands were counted, matching the peak demand rather than over supplying on street.

They are requesting approval for the removal of the eighteen tagged trees with many new plantings the end of fall.

The Chair stated that the Heights project has been a tremendous transformation.

**MOTION** made by AJ Dupere to grant removal of the eighteen trees. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

3. **Report by Fred Borman on Emergency Response Plan** – Mr. Borman gave an update on the itree Storm Project and requested additional information. Mr. Borman presented the Committee with a draft plan of City maintained streets. The itree storm inventory is a sample inventory of right-of-way trees. Training took place December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Urban Forestry Center for DPW personnel and Leslie Stevens. Twenty-nine street segments were listed including street name and the length of street segment that was inventoried which included approximately 4.4 miles of City maintained streets, both sides. Ocean Road is a state road. A list of the actual number of trees that were inventoried by diameter class, a total of 1,024 trees over several days. An interesting point from a statistical standpoint is that for every City owned tree in the right-of-way there are almost

5.5 private trees within 50 ft of the right-of-way that would impact the right-of-way during a storm. During a major hurricane there are approximately 41,000 trees that would come down in the right-of-way, not including parks, municipal buildings, backyards, only trees that would come down and impact the right-of-way. The inventory was based on the assumption there are 165 miles of streets in Portsmouth maintained by Public Works. Based on pruning costs of \$94.00/hr and brush removal at \$15/hr. if all those 41,000 trees blew down into the right-of-way it would cost about 1.6 million dollars of damage. Removal hours about 8500 hours, 2,000 pruning hours and the program estimates there would be over 43,000 cubic yards of debris from the storm. The tree storm is that we can go back and do a post storm inventory where we can get even more exact figures done in a relatively short period of time. Mr. Borman also included a draft of the Tree Emergency Manual he prepared. The last major piece to be completed as an appendix to the plan is to fill out tree emergency worksheet and would like some help in determining the incident command system, who would respond, what roads open up first for emergency vehicles, what equipment is available, where it is kept, what contractors are available to help the City and importantly, storage of debris until being disposed. Steve Parkinson will work with Jamie and Mr. Borman who will call Elaine to set up an appointment.

AJ offered the Urban Forestry Center as a local dumping area.

Mr. Borman plans on having this completed in April, presented second week of May for his UNH Graduate Program project.

4. **Point of Graves Tree Planting** – Joe Capobianco presented the Committee with an another layout proposal and an overview of what they have done to date and concerns they have that this Committee needs to address. The abutters focus is to have plantings of shrubs versus trees to maintain a view from the abutters' side of the fence. Their committee came up with recommended plantings and folks they have contacted. They came up with six components they feel needs to be addressed by this committee. 1. about unexposed grave sites. Drainage is a key issue, plant beds, proposed plantings, the abutters will maintain watering and fertilizing for the 1<sup>st</sup> two years, beyond that, it becomes the City's responsibility. Because of remaining snow on the ground, time line is probably fall. There's a lot of standing water in the grave yard. Another proposal was presented to the Committee without monetary information showing six areas of plantings. The large existing trees along Mechanic St. need to be addressed with regards to pruning. Dick Adams does not feel the unexposed/unmarked graves should be a concern. Steve Parkinson stated the area needs to be looked at. He has spoken to the Rotary Club who is interested in working with us. Steve Parkinson suggested gearing towards this proposal, work with Rotary to see what they can supply and see where the gap is in funding, allow Public Works to continue working the Rotary angle and neighborhood Committee.
5. **Pierce Island Committee Tree Request** - AJ reported that he and Everett Kern will go there next month when the snow recedes more.
6. **Spring Planting List** – Everett Kern reported putting out RFQ's once the species are selected, and would like to see them in the ground by May. Everett will look at 26 Park St.
7. **Old Business:**

**Tree Ordinance** – The Chair will have this information at the next meeting.

**8. New Business:**

- (A) **Arbor Day** – Nancy Carmer asked if there had been anything on an Arbor Day program from the arborists. AJ reported he will look into this and will contact Micum and Chris.
- (B) The Chair reported hearing from Jeff Marple proposing to cut Clippings from Flowering Japanese trees along the Mill Pond, raise them for ten years and then planting them. AJ stated that starting from seed is easier and faster.

Dick Adams suggested telling Jeff Marple that we appreciate his idea.

- (C) AJ reported potentially will be doing some work at the Portsmouth facility along Elwyn Rd. Will try to determine whose responsibility between himself and DOT between Elwyn Rd and Rt. 1 at the intersection where the traffic lights are and also there are some dead trees hanging coming back along their property line and is having Urban do some of the work. There is a tree at their entrance that Everett will look at to see if it is on City right-of-way or not. If so, will be requesting removal.

**9. Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Boucas

**Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees & Public Greenery  
Portsmouth Municipal Complex  
1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

*"There is not a village in America, however badly planned at first,  
or ill-built afterwards, that may not be redeemed, in a great measure,  
by the aid of shade trees in the streets ... and it is never too late  
or too early to project improvements of this kind."*  
Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852)

April 8, 2011

Jeffrey Marple  
Marple & James  
254 State Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for your continued interest in trees in the City of Portsmouth. I particularly appreciated your proposal to take cuttings from flowering Japanese Cherry Blossom trees to create additional trees for planting in the City.

I discussed your proposal at a recent meeting of the Trees & Greenery Committee. Everyone on the Committee appreciated your thoughtfulness and energy in this area, however, the problems associated with taking "cuttings" and raising them in a nursery appear to be insurmountable. AJ Dupere, an arborist and forester and member of the Committee, indicated that at the Urban Forestry Center (which AJ directs), they attempted to raise trees from seedlings or cuttings. It turned out to be an incredibly labor intensive job and was not found to be an efficient use of manpower. From my own experience in planting trees over the last 30 or so years, I am well aware of the challenging labor intensive nature of this type of a project.

Jeff, in short, I think your idea for the cuttings is a good one, but unfortunately, not one that would be cost effective for the City to carry out at this time.

Thank you for your interest. Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Loughlin

## Peter Loughlin - Tree Committee April 13 - Maplehaven

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**From:** Dave Desfosses <djdesfosses@cityofportsmouth.com>  
**To:** 'Peter Loughlin' <Peter.Loughlin@pjllaw.com>  
**Date:** 3/24/2011 8:59 AM  
**Subject:** Tree Committee April 13 - Maplehaven  
**CC:** "John P. Bohenko" <jpbohenko@cityofportsmouth.com>, "Dave S. Allen" <dsallen@cityofportsmouth.com>, Steve Parkinson <sparkinson@cityofportsmouth.com>, Everett Kern <eskern@cityofportsmouth.com>

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Dear Peter/Committee Members,

I have put in an application to Trees and Greenery Committee for tree removal regarding the City's Maplehaven drainage project for the April 13th meeting. The City plans on reconstructing the drainage systems in both Maplehaven North and South. There are existing pipe outfalls in both these locations currently but both are in failure as they are severely undersized and also large trees have grown up on top of them.

We have concurrently filled applications for wetland and buffer zone disturbance from the State and City respectively. The City has granted all buffer zone permits already and we await a decision from NHDES regarding the wetland disturbances.

The North Side of Maplehaven has (and is still proposed to have), its outfall to the left of the ball field as you look at the field from the street. The path of the new pipe system was adjusted so that most of the large trees nearest the street would be spared, the pipe will enter the woods at an angle to accomplish this goal. The stormwater will enter into a velocity/energy dissipating plunge pool to be located where the large boulders near the corner of the field are currently, then the water will travel down a manmade swale that will be constructed parallel to and outside of the right field fence line. The proposed location of the swale being directly adjacent to the fence keeps all the disturbance (for both trees and wetlands) on the fringe of the woods to minimize cutting and also lessens the chance of a tree falling on the fence.

The South side of Maplehaven has its outfall on a paper street at the end of Mariette between house numbers 35 & 37. There is one street tree in this location that was planted directly on top of the pipe that will have to be removed. Although the street tree is a nice specimen, I do not think that the tree would survive the work even if we shifted the pipe over. In fact, we might kill two trees if we tried to do that as this tree is in the middle of a line of three. The proposed pipe is quite large (30") and the root systems would surely be heavily compromised if we dug inside of the tree drip line. The other trees in this location are in the woods. There is an existing pipe here already and the proposed path follows the existing path. The existing pipe goes out some 300' onto adjacent City land and outfalls into a wooded wetland. For hydraulic efficiency and maintenance reasons, the new pipe will be brought out into the woods just past the edge of the woods behind the homes and then a swale will be dug from that point out to the wetland system.

Wednesday 4/23/11, I went out there and flagged all of the trees that need to be cut in solid pink flagging tape. Ignore the pink and black striped tape, that is the edge of wetlands delineation lines. The ticks are not out yet but I am sure they will make their appearance soon so I recommend a viewing, if needed, happen quickly.

I know there are a lot of trees here but I assure you that the City and its consultants endeavored to keep the disturbance to a minimum. If you or other members wish to meet with me onsite, I will make myself available.

Thank You

## Nancy J. Ratliff

March 3, 2011

Peter Loughlin, Chairman  
Committee on Trees and Public Greenery  
City Hall  
One Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: 180 Newcastle Avenue, Portsmouth

Dear Mr. Loughlin and Committee Members,

I recently requested permission from the Public Works Department to change the entry of my driveway at 180 Newcastle Avenue from its current location on Newcastle Avenue to a new location on Ball Street, which also borders my property.

There are several reasons for my request:

1. The most important and urgent reason is the danger of a serious collision on Newcastle Avenue where approaching traffic from a number of nearby streets and directions is difficult or impossible to see from even a mid-size car backing into Newcastle Avenue. Enclosed is a map showing some of the streets in relation to the driveway at 180 Newcastle Avenue.

Marcy Street – Both the curve itself where Marcy Street enters Newcastle Avenue from Portsmouth and fast-moving vehicles coming around the curve make it difficult for cars backing from the driveway to see and move safely out of the path of oncoming traffic.

Fernald Court and Newcastle Avenue – The property at 166 Newcastle Avenue (on the corner of Newcastle Avenue and Fernald Court) is at a slightly higher level than the driveway at 180 and contains a garden with plantings and garden ornaments that make it virtually impossible for cars at the base of the driveway to see cars leaving Fernald Court. In addition, the driveway at 180 can't be easily seen by traffic entering from the South Street end of Newcastle Avenue and the many cars that move quickly through the stop sign.

From the direction of the Town of New Castle, there is good vision on Newcastle Avenue itself, but there are a number of smaller streets where it is hard to see cars preparing to turn toward left toward Portsmouth (and the house at 180 Newcastle Avenue) because many of the older houses on corners are built close to Newcastle Avenue, blocking the sight of the turning vehicles just beyond them. Moreover, during the winter when shoveled or plowed snow is piled high on both sides of the driveway, traffic on Newcastle Avenue is not visible from either direction.

Relocating the driveway will remove the dangerous exit/entry from the busier Newcastle Avenue to Ball Street, which having only 3 houses that face the street and two houses at the corner, experiences minimal traffic.

2. A second reason for moving the driveway is that James Fernald, whose residence is on Fernald Court behind 166 Newcastle Avenue, has a water and sewer easement under the current driveway at 180 Newcastle. The location of those pipes will necessitate his digging up the driveway, or part of it, to access either line needing repair, preventing use of the driveway during the repairs as well as causing damage to the driveway and surrounding landscape.
3. The change of location would also allow a more logical and convenient entry to the residence at 180 Newcastle from the back of the house, where a door leads into a ground level hall rather than up a set of steep stairs in the front or directly into a den/bedroom on the side.

The Public Works Department has no objection to the change of location, and Dave Desfosses has referred me to your committee for permission to remove the two fruit trees (apple, I've been told) that are on the border of my property and City property where the driveway (a parking pad similar to that of the neighbor behind me, though smaller) would now enter. The enclosed photograph shows the trees, and a rough sketch indicates location of the driveway.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



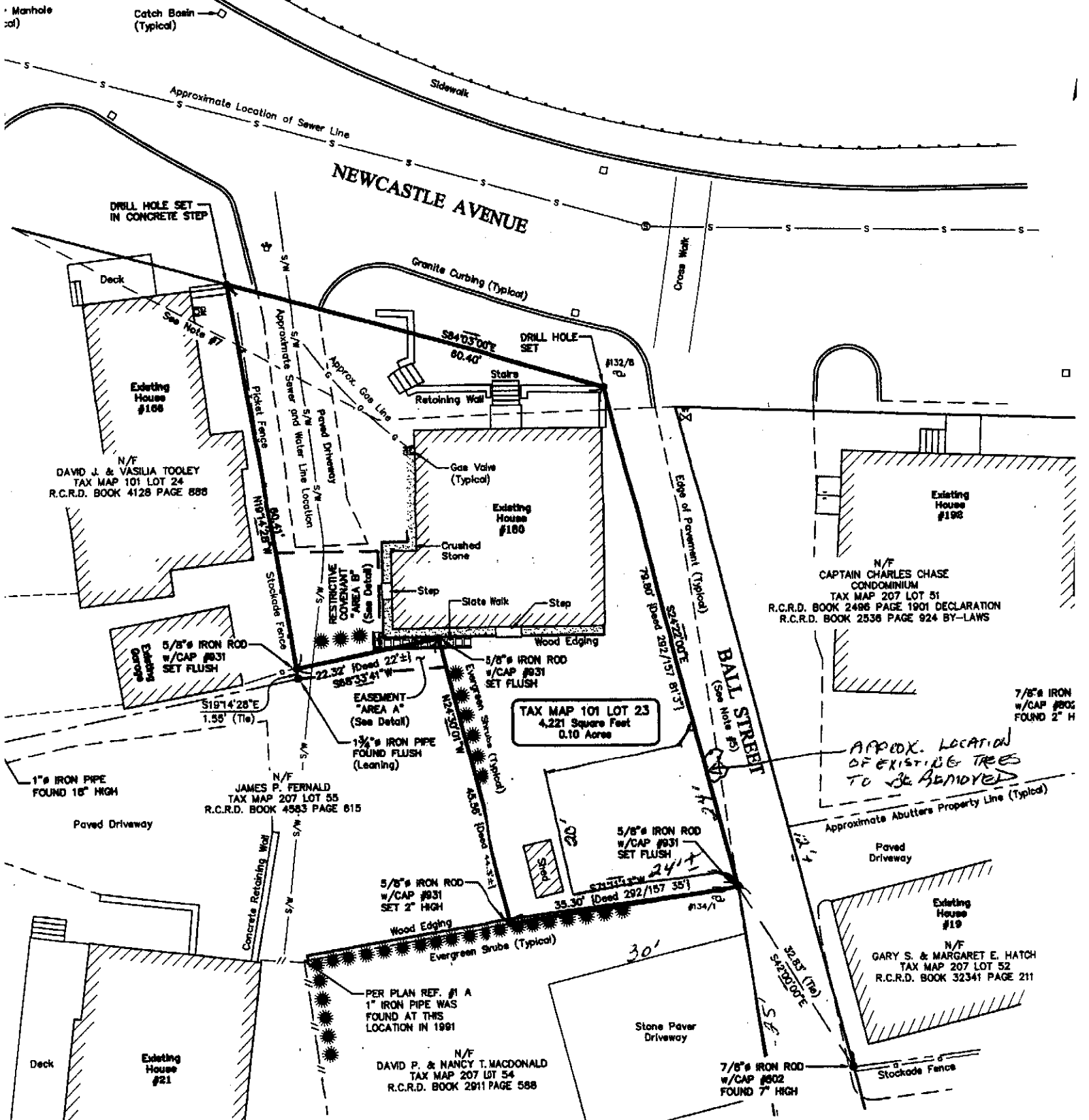
Nancy J. Ratliff

Temporary address:  
1045 Fearington Post  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-542-6703  
Cell phone: 603-707-9112



PISCATAQUA RIVER



APPROX. LOCATION OF EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED

REV	DATE	STATUS	BY	CR
A	1/13/10	ADD PROPOSED EASMENT & RESTRICTIVE COVENANT	RAB	PI

**Peter Loughlin - RE: Trees on Ball Street**

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**From:** Dave Desfosses <djdesfosses@cityofportsmouth.com>  
**To:** 'Peter Loughlin' <Peter.Loughlin@pjllaw.com>  
**Date:** 3/23/2011 8:03 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Trees on Ball Street  
**CC:** Steve Parkinson <sparkinson@cityofportsmouth.com>

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Hi Peter,

Sorry I didn't get back to you right away, I was in traffic signal school on Tuesday.

As far as the driveway, it would be much better situation for the City and the resident to get the driveway off the main road and onto the side street. The area is congested as the driveway essentially comes out onto an intersection. One of the driveway stipulations would be resetting the curbing where the driveway is to maintain the curve and intersection alignment.

As far as the back yard, it doesn't matter to us really where it goes. It would be best for sight and stopping distance for cars coming from the corner of Ball and Newcastle if the driveway was not right up against the house (as is currently shown on the plan). This application is approvable as is by Public Works.

Maybe they could replant something smaller in another spot? (Like where the driveway is now???)

Regards

DD

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**From:** Peter Loughlin [mailto:Peter.Loughlin@pjllaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:28 AM  
**To:** Dave Desfosses; Everett Kern  
**Cc:** Richard  
**Subject:** Trees on Ball Street

David and Everett:

Recently the Trees and Greenery Committee received a request from Nancy Ratliff, owner of 180 New Castle Avenue, for removal of two trees on Ball Street. This letter is to confirm that the proposed elimination of her driveway on New Castle Ave has been approved by you. Also, has the proposed location on Ball Street been approved? Can it be moved in any way on Ball Street

Thank you. Sincerely, Peter