

Tree Removal Proposal at 90 FW Hartford Drive

Project representative

Ash Chicooree
90 FW Hartford Drive,
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: 978.317.2973
Email: erg1600@hotmail.com

Situation:

On August 9th, I received a visit from Ms. Kate Homet from the planning department. She stated that a neighbor in the Woodlands had called the planning board to make them aware that trees were being taken down at a property. While we would have liked that neighbor to come talk to us if they had concerns or suggestions or advice, the neighbor in question, called the city directly which is rather immature and malicious. We were not aware that the wetlands buffer extended that far into our property. We thought we were safe since we have never had any water problems in our backyards and our neighbor at 70 FW has a backyard (lawn) that extends much further than ours into the woods.

Ms Homet also gave me the web address of a site where I can see the wetland and buffer areas for the Woodlands. Since receiving the link to the map, I have also started to educate neighbors on the wetlands and buffer when I talk to them and if I hear that they are doing projects. Being aware and educated about the wetlands and buffer is important to be able to make decisions.

Historical:

90 FW Hartford Drive were built in the 1980s. Majority of the properties sit in the wetlands buffer as well as some wetlands (see page 3). Since then, the site has seen very little to no tree management. After 40 years of neglect many trees are now leaning towards the houses. Some have their limbs over or touching the roof. Others are sick and dying (peeling bark, trunk splitting; whereas some trees are in danger of falling with their root systems very much exposed. The trees are well over 50ft in height. This can potentially be catastrophic and it could cause injuries or even fatalities to someone inside or outside.

Project Scope:

The aim of this project was to cut down those negligent trees between along the property line at 90 FW property that directly threaten the integrity of the home and the safety of our kids/neighbors. These threats include:

- Bodily harm to both adult and children who play in that area
- Damages to property due to possible falling limbs or whole trees. Old, damaged or otherwise weak trees may fall and endanger lives and/or property. Large, weak branches, too, are a hazard, especially if weighed down by ice. We pick up big branches every winter.
- Humidity due to lack of sunlight and air circulation resulting in moss growth on the roof sides and concrete foundations of the homes as well as mildew rotting away the siding and wood structure.

In order to counter these threats, I had the trees which pose a direct threat to the people and/or home removed. My approach has been judicious with the aim to take trees that posed a threat to our safety and we wanted to be proactive with the hazardous trees. These trees had exposed roots, peeling barks, discolorations and some have started to have rotten branches and trunks. Given that much of the property lies within designated wetland buffer zone we request a conditional wetland permit to complete the project.

The project involves the following:

- Taking down the trees inside property line of 90FW (trees found in between 80 and 90FW).
- Perform general clean-up of the area which includes gridding the stump and the protruding roots for safety reasons since the kids play in that area and injury can happen on this uneven and root laden section (sharp wood pieces, burning bushes and some thorny bushes etc.). If the stumps and protruding roots are not taken care of, they will eventually rot and become insect ridden and unsightly on top of being hazards.
- Add organic material such as regular dirt to replenish what was taken so as to minimize the impact and disturbances to the buffer zone.
- A plan (phase 2) to also add additional vegetation (preferably native plants or decorative grasses example bluebell bellflower, Blue Flag etc.- open to suggestions) to create a privacy buffer with the neighbor (TBD).
- Clean up fallen and dead plants as well as invasive burning bush so as to eliminate hazardous conditions for people. Bring to the recycling center.

Trees Location:



Trees removed:

The trees removed were 90% pines and 10% consisting of a small oak and a beech tree. The trees were between 40 to 80 ft in height top heavy for the pines as the bottom branches rotted away. The beech tree was splitting in the middle where one big branch met with the trunk. Part of the other big branch was dead and rotting away and had fallen on the shed and damaged it. The smaller oak trunk had a shredded paper appearance and several of the branches had already detached from the tree. The diameter of the stumps range between 12-22 inches.

Some examples stumps and roots:





