



Town of Sturbridge

Conservation Commission

Tree Removal Permit Application



In an effort to make the most informed decision possible concerning a tree removal application the Commission encourages the applicant to provide as much information about the tree(s) as possible.

Certain tree removal requests may be administratively approved by the Conservation Agent while others require approval from the Conservation Commission at a public meeting. Applicants will be contacted by the Conservation Department regarding site visit and the requirement for approval by the Conservation Commission.

Application Date April 20, 2022

Location/Address of Property: 36 Mount Dan Road

and/or Assessor's Parcel Number: _____

Property Owner:

Name: Sue and John Stagais

Street Address: 36 Mount Dan Road

Mailing Address: same

Town: Fiskdale Zip Code: 01518

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Applicant Contact Person:

Name: Joseph Kowalski

Street Address: 235 Walker Road

Mailing Address: same

Town: Sturbridge, MA Zip Code: 01566

Phone: 508-735-7322 Email: joseph@ganesh-tree.com

Tree Removal Information

Number of trees to be removed: 3

Indicate the size, species and location of removal trees and attach plan/sketch with application. Trees must be marked and clearly visible for the site inspection by the Conservation Agent/Commission.

Reason for removal:

☐ Health* ☒ High Risk* ☐ Tree is dead (please include picture) ☒ Other (please explain below)

See attached arborist narrative

**In situations where the health and/or risk assessment of the tree is justification for removal professional documentation of such is required. Credible professional tree diagnostic, evaluation and recommendation advice is available to the applicant through certified arborists: Please refer to the following two websites to learn more about utilizing a certified arborist. If Health or High Risk is checked above, please submit the arborist's report/documentation with your application.*

Refer to: Massachusetts Arborists Association: <http://www.massarbor.org/>
 International Society of Arboriculture: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>

Replacement/Mitigation plantings are suggested, and may be required by the Commission in certain cases.

Guidance for Replacement Plantings:

It is recommended that careful consideration be made for mitigating plantings when a tree is being removed. Shrub planting may be a mitigation recommendation when tree replacement is not appropriate. This compensation is dependent upon the level of activity associated with the tree removal and its impacts or future impacts upon the effected resource area. Additional guidance can be obtained from a Certified Arborist or a qualified landscape professional.

Number of trees to be replaced: _____

Proposed Replacement Plantings: two - see narrative

Proposed Replacement Locations: See narrative

Include replacement plants/locations on sketch submitted with application.

Signature of Applicant Joseph Kewali

Signature of Owner (if different from Applicant) JS



Shrī Gaṇēsh Tree and Plant Health Care

Joseph A. Kowalski

235 Walker Road

Sturbridge, MA 01566

www.ganeshtree.com

joseph@ganeshtree.com

Sue and John Stagais

4/26/2022

36 Mount Dan Road

Fiskdale, Mass 01521

Project Assignment:

I was contacted during the first week in April by Sue and John Stagais regarding concerns they had about a number of trees on their property on the shore of Big Alum Pond. These concerns centered around the structural integrity of one specific tree in addition to having questions about a number of others. I visited the property on April 16th and performed these assigned risk/health assessment tasks.

Site Description/History/Tree Locations and Assessments:

I visited the site on April 10th and initiated the reviewing process.

The Stagais's have been living in the property since 2014 and have particular concern about the large red maple (*Acer rubrum*) located in their front yard and overhanging the lake. The tree **Tree #1 – (see map and attached 3 photos)** is a 30" diameter tree which lies about 5' from the water's edge. This tree was on the property previously to the Stagais purchasing it and constructing the new residence. The Stagais's had made efforts during construction to ensure its survival and continued good health. The Stagais's have treated the tree in the past with various plant health care prescriptions (bio-fertilizing) and in 2017 had the tree treated for the gypsy moth larvae control. They have always held the tree in high regard. The tree is in a high use area. The tree has noticeably declined to them dropping leaves earlier than it has in the past and dropping many small branches continually throughout the year. Of particular note is the tree is leaning heavily and appears to have recently moved more in that same direction. Noticeable is a root/ground disturbance which can be seen as there is a crack/hole in the ground next to the base of the tree. The tree has noticeable advanced decay within the entire lower trunk area. In addition, this tree should it fail, overtops or leans over the boat and recreational water vehicle storage area. It would also damage the stone wall most likely upon failure. The tree also overtops or would damage an existing hemlock tree beneath its crown in addition to some other understory plants present within its reach.

It is recommended that the tree be removed as it will continue to decline both in health and structural integrity. They would like the stump ground out also as the front yard is so minimal and it would also create a planting location for a smaller replacement tree.

Tree # 2 – (see map and attached photo) – is a 10” diameter red oak (*Quercus rubra*) growing 15’ from the shoreline. It lies within a drainage “way” which flows water during exceptionally high rainfall events. The tree is an understory tree that was left when the house was constructed. It lies beneath a massive red oak. This tree can be defined as a suppressed understory tree. It also grows within the shade created by the house to the South. The tree has no hope of becoming an investable respected landscape tree. It will continue to grow slowly as it is suppressed and as it ages will continue its march and continually grow to the South and its interference with the residence will only increase over time.

It is recommended that this tree be removed during these proposed removal operations. It does not have the capacity nor ability to develop into anything but problems to the homeowner in future years.

This stump will remain intact as it lies within this intermittent heavy water flow area and is not part of the formal landscaped yard.

Tree # 3 – (see map and attached photo) – is a 10” diameter red maple 5’ from the shoreline. It lies due East of the house within the very small rear yard area. It is within a mulched maintained highly used area. This tree was also left during the home construction process. It is a suppressed understory tree that will continue to grow towards the South and the house. Its branches and the tree itself should be removed because it will be problematic in the future. It is out of place and does not have the capacity or form to develop into a respectable landscape tree.

The tree is healthy. It’s location and ultimate size and what results from that size will eventually be problematic. The tree grows in a high use area within the very small Northeast back yard. The stump will ground out and replaced with suitable growing material. The tree will be replaced with a dwarf sized tree that is both ecological suitable for the site as well as in its eventual size.

Conclusions/Summary:

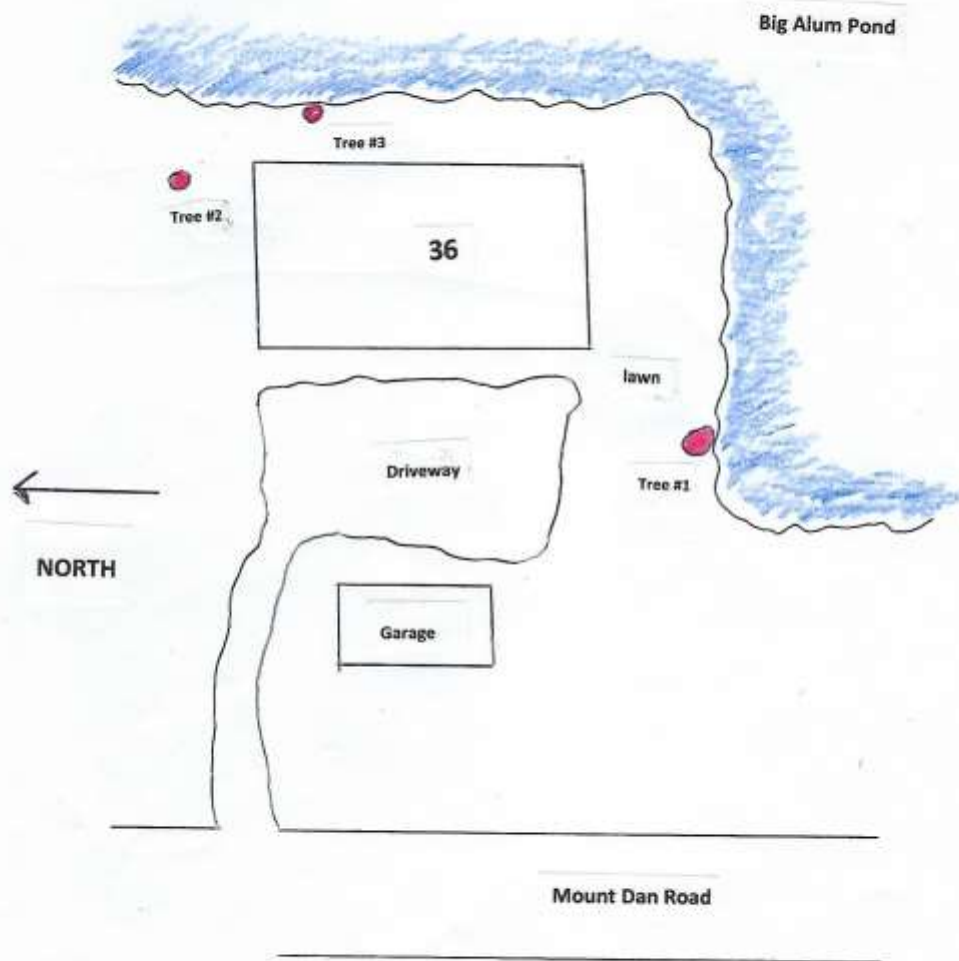
Tree #2 and #3 are healthy trees. They are included for removal as their presence as indicated is not warranted when looking at the long-term landscape qualities and limitations of the property. At least one large branch will be pruned off of the large red oak overtopping the residence in the Northeast corner of the property.

Mitigating Measures/Replanting

It is the desire of the homeowner to maintain his extremely limited formal yard space. Two of the removal trees lie within these areas. They will be replanted with two separate appropriately sized individuals. A small crown of the desired shape for to replace Tree #1 and a dwarf or semi-dwarf individual for the small rear yard.

Sue and John Stagias
36 Mount Dan Road
Fiskdale Mass. 01518

April 2022





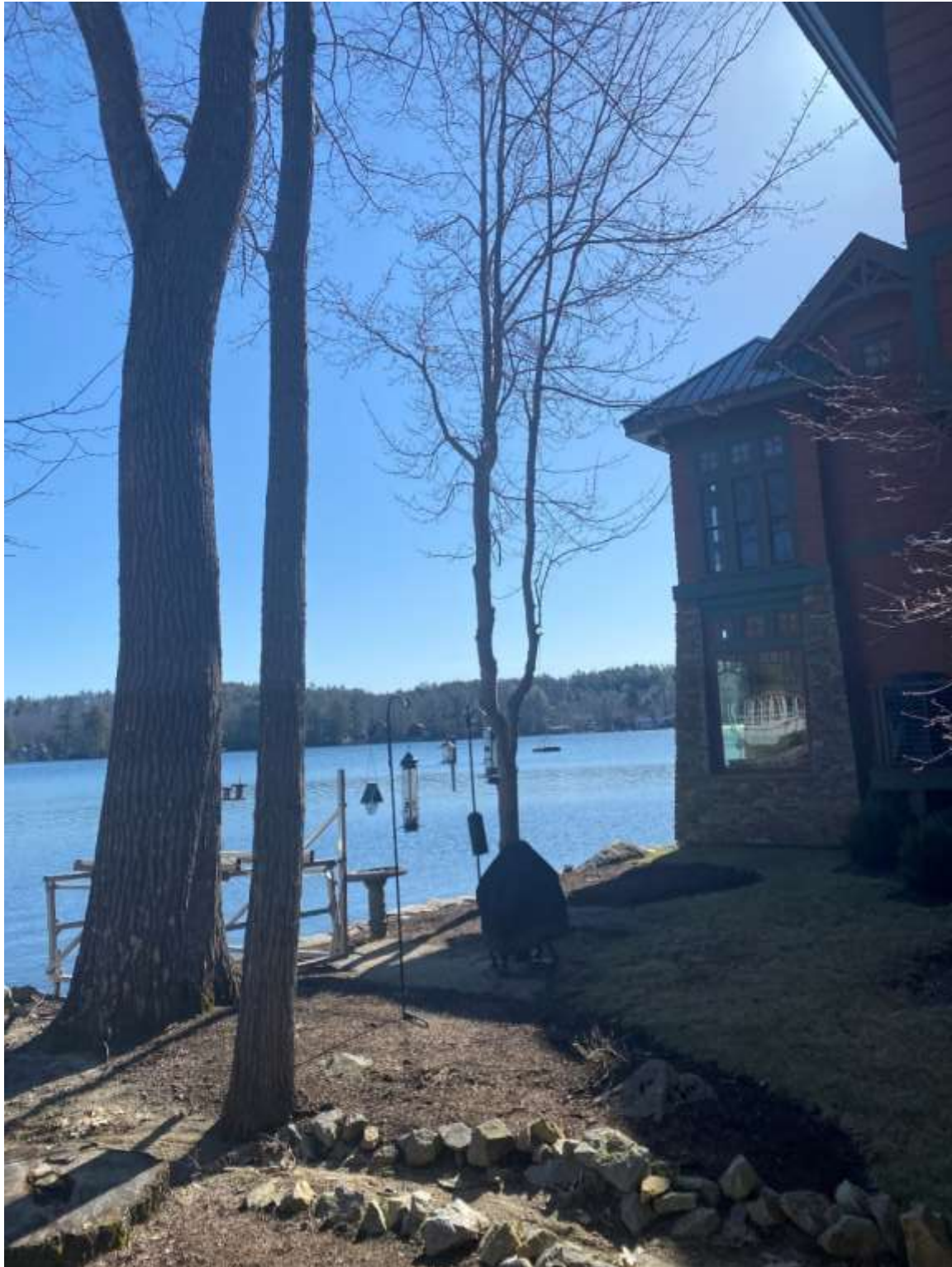
RED MAPLE – Tree #1 – from the South



RED MAPLE – Tree #1 – from the East



RED MAPLE – Tree #1 – from the East - close-up



Trees # 2 an #3 – from the North
Red Oak and Red Maple understory trees



Tree # 3 – from the North

Red Maple