

# The Morin-Cameron

## GROUP, INC.

November 18, 2015

Ms. Martha A Morrison, Chair  
Topsfield Planning Board  
c/o Ms. Roberta Knight, Purchasing and Community Development Coordinator  
Town of Topsfield Town Hall  
8 West Common Street  
Topsfield, MA 01983

**RE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Response to Peer Review Comments  
Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land  
57 Perkins Row, Topsfield, Massachusetts**

Dear Ms. Morrison and Members of the Planning Board:

On behalf of New Meadows Development, LLC (Applicant), The Morin-Cameron Group, Inc. (MCG) has provided the following response to a comment mentioned by Beals and Thomas, Inc. (B+T) in a November 17, 2015 letter. B+T expressed concerns about a large "pin oak" tree that is located on the premise and proposed for removal as part of the project. MCG has coordinated with the Topsfield Conservation Commission Agent and Chair who recommended that we secure the services of Ben Staples, who is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist to inspect the tree. Mr. Staples conducted an inspection of the tree on November 18, 2015. He concluded that:

"this tree is in the later stages of senescence. There are no known treatments for Armillaria Root Rot and the end result of this disease is tree decline and failure. Given the site and its parameters preservation is not recommended."

We have included a copy of the email correspondence with Mr. Staples hereto.

Based on Mr. Staples findings, we are continuing to recommend removal of the tree in conjunction with the development of the proposed subdivision road. The road will result in the planting of at least 22 street trees and at least 12 other trees in wetland mitigation/restoration areas as outlined in the Derosa Environmental Consulting, Inc. Wetland Mitigation and Restoration Plan.

It should also be noted for the administrative record that the Topsfield Tree Warden commented on his observations of rot and decay on the tree during a site walk on November 9, 2015.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (978) 887-8586.

Very Truly Yours,

**THE MORIN-CAMERON GROUP, INC.**



Scott P. Cameron, PE  
Principal

cc: DeRosa Environmental Consulting, LLC  
Attorney Nancy McCann  
New Meadows Development, LLC  
Topsfield Conservation Commission

Attachments

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**CIVIL ENGINEERS • LAND SURVEYORS • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS • LAND USE PLANNERS**

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www.morincameron.com

## Scott Cameron

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**From:** Roberta Knight <rknight@topsfield-ma.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 8:45 AM  
**To:** nmccann@mccannlaw.com; Scott Cameron; Richard Kosian (rkosian@bealsandthomas.com)  
**Subject:** FW: 2613.00, Topsfield, Letter

Forwarding Dave Bond response on tree

**From:** David bond [mailto:dbond@topsfieldpublicworks.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 6:32 AM  
**To:** Roberta Knight; 'Joe Geller'; 'Martha Morrison'; spcunniff@verizon.net; stephen@silveriwilson.com; 'Steven Hall'  
**Cc:** Lana Spillman  
**Subject:** RE: 2613.00, Topsfield, Letter

All,

While I am not an Arborist, as the Tree Warden for the Town for many years, I have seen my share of both red and white oak trees that appear to be in good health and the contrary is true. This white oak, while very large and majestic, is in decline and has several deadwood sections. The topic of saving it came up at the site walk. I took that opportunity to take a quick look at the base of the tree where I was able to see visible rot and decay to the extent I could put my fingers into a void and grab a handful of sawdust. I just wanted to add those observations to the discussion.

Dave

David M. Bond  
Highway Superintendent  
Stormwater Coordinator  
Tree Warden  
Planning Board Agent  
Topsfield Public Works  
279 Boston Street  
Topsfield, MA 01983  
978-887-1542  
[www.topsfieldpublicworks.org](http://www.topsfieldpublicworks.org)  
[Topsfield Public Works on FaceBook](#)  
[@topsfieldDPW on Twitter](#)

## Scott Cameron

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**From:** Lana Spillman <lspillman@topsfield-ma.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:24 AM  
**To:** Scott Cameron  
**Subject:** FW: 57 Perkins Row

Hi, Scott,

Here is the written summary of the certified arborist's evaluation, made today, of the large red oak at 57 Perkins Row. I have shared it with the Commission and will forward it to Roberta for the Planning Board and to David Bond as well. Cicoria Tree will send the invoice (\$100) to you.

Thanks,  
Lana

Lana Spillman  
Topsfield Conservation Administrator  
8 West Common Street  
Topsfield, MA 01983  
978-887-1510

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:05 AM  
To: Lana Spillman; Cicoria Tree Services  
Subject: 57 Perkins Row

Dear Ms Spillman,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to inspect the large red oak located next to the existing drive at 57 Perkins Row, Topsfield. A visual examination was conducted from the ground today, November 18, 2015. During that examination I observed the following:

1. The overall vigor of the tree appeared fair. There were numerous large dead limbs on the lower portions of the tree. The upper canopy appeared reasonably full and balanced.
2. The tree bifurcates at about 6 feet in height above grade. The connection between the main stems shows some signs of movement but in general appeared strong. There was an old metal support cable, now broken, between the 2 main stems at about 20 feet above grade.
3. There were old flush cut pruning wounds on the trunk. Some were calloused over, others showed signs of decay.
4. There were significant areas of decay at the base of the tree located on the driveway side and the North East and South sides. At each of those locations were observed the signs of Armillaria Root Rot, a fungus disease. In addition, there appeared to be callous growth over the tops of the buttress roots on 3 of 4 sides of the tree which could indicate extensive root decay moving from the interior to the exterior of the tree due to the infection of the armillaria root rot disease.

In conclusion it is my opinion this tree is in the later stages of senescence. There are no known treatments for Armillaria Root Rot and the end result of this disease is tree decline and failure. Given the site and its parameters preservation is not recommended.

Thank you again for this opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ben Staples  
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist.