

MEMOANDUM

TO: Zoning Board Administrator

FROM: Walt Kipp, Township Forester

RE: Daughters of Israel removal and landscape plan

DATE: November 18, 2022



This is an addendum to my earlier email to the board.

I have reviewed the tree removal and landscape plans prepared by Petry engineering and I note the following:

The tree removal plan submitted by the applicant does not comply with Section 25-27.5 c. of the Township's Tree Protection and Removal Ordinance (the "Ordinance") because the plan that was submitted depicts an "X" through every tree on the site whereas the schedule of trees appended to the plan indicates trees that are to be removed and trees that are to be preserved. Only those trees that are to be removed are to be shown on the plan with an "X" through them. Trees that are to remain must be shown but should not have an "X" through them. The plan and the schedule are therefore inconsistent and must be revised and resubmitted to the Board and for my review.

I have been able to identify many trees on the site that the tree removal plan indicates are dead that are in fact alive and vigorous. When I have received a conforming tree removal plan, I will be able to identify those trees by identification number.

Section 25-27.7 c. 1. (b) of the Ordinance requires that specimen trees and other large trees (10" DBH and greater) shall be preserved to the greatest extent possible. The tree removal plan depicts the removal of such trees along Pleasant Valley Way, on the Eastern portion of the property, along the entry road, and along the parking lot at the Western portion of the property that do not appear to be necessary for the construction of the project as those trees are not within the footprint of construction disturbance. In these cases, the applicant has not preserved trees to the greatest extent possible. When I receive a revised tree cutting plan, I will be able to provide the Zoning Board with the exact locations, identification numbers, sizes, and species of those trees that I believe can be and should be preserved.

Section 25-27.7 b. sets forth the factors to be considered in evaluating a tree removal application, such as :

Sub-section b.2, whether the proposed cutting of trees would change existing drainage patterns;

Sub-section b.3, whether the proposed cutting would allow soil erosion;

Sub-section b.4, whether the proposed cutting would increase the amount of stormwater runoff;

Sub-section b.5, whether the proposed cutting would constitute a significant change in screening existing or proposed buildings or roads on the site and adjacent land or in the wooded aspect of the lot as viewed from any public road.

The proposed tree cutting would have the deleterious effects that are enumerated in Section 25-27.7 b 2-5 above. In particular, the cutting of trees on the eastern slope of the property and directly along Pleasant Valley Way will severely alter the wooded aspect of the property particular in relation to the existing lush tree canopy along the Pleasant Valley Way corridor.

When I have received a tree removal plan that conforms with the Ordinance, I will be able to provide a more detailed analysis of the violations of the Ordinance from the proposed tree cutting on the site.