



TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

25 LAKESIDE AVENUE, WEST ORANGE, N.J. 07052

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ROBERT D. PARISI
Mayor

Tel: (973) 325-4160
Fax: (973) 669-9588
Email: llepore@westorange.org

LEONARD R. LEPORE
Director/Municipal Engineer

MEMORANDUM

TO: LEONARD LEPORE, MUNICIPAL ENGINEER/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
GENIECE GARRY-ADAMS, ZONING OFFICER

FROM: JOHN LINSON, TOWNSHIP FORESTRY CONSULTANT

DATE: AUGUST 31, 2020

RE: SAI HIRA RAM TRUST HOUSE OF WORSHIP 2B-14-08
23 & 27 LAUREL AVENUE

CC: ANITA THANI, anitathani2054@gmail.com
JOHN BERTOLDI, RJ MICHAELS & CO. rjmcoinc@gmail.com

On August 28, 2020 I met with Anita Thani and John Bertoldi on site in regard to the pros and cons of constructing a 6' high block wall along the Northern Property Line.

The apparent reasoning for the construction of the wall is to provide additional screening of the adjacent properties on Barton Drive and Alsop Court. There is presently an established planting along this boundary that is already providing a reasonable level of screening for these properties.

It was pointed out to me that the 6' block wall will require a 3 ½' deep trench excavation below the frost line to provide an adequate foundation for the 6' wall.

The excavation at the property line will necessitate a disruption of steep slopes both on and off site as well as the destruction of the following trees:

ON SITE:

8" diameter Wild Cherry
18" diameter Black Locust
17" diameter Black Locust
20" diameter Black Locust
16" diameter Ash
24" diameter Mulberry

OFF SITE – #5 Barton Drive
17" diameter Black Walnut
3" diameter Black Locust
17" x 17" diameter Black Locust
18" diameter Ash (dead)
19" diameter Black Locust
18" diameter Black Locust

There would also be some disturbance of the established evergreen screening.

In my opinion, the only **pro** for constructing a 6' block wall is to provide additional screening to the adjacent properties.

The **Cons** would be the destruction of steep slope both on and off site as well as the necessary removal of 12 trees, 6 trees on site and 6 trees off site.

Another approach which would accomplish the same objective of providing 6' of additional solid screening, without the disruption of steep slope or the removal of 12 trees, would be the installation of 6' high slatted chain link fence.

My recommendation is to go with the 6' high slatted chain link fence.