

October 7, 2021

Dear Dorothy,

Even though you told us of your plan to significantly prune Dan's Oak tree, it was still a shock for all to see a huge bucket truck on your property.

We thought we'd write you on behalf of our family and the other neighbors on Maker Street to request that you reconsider your plans to prune 25% of this legacy oak tree. This exceptional tree is a neighborhood asset that provides visual beauty. It is admired by all your neighbors, and we all are devastated that you plan to cut it.

As a licensed real estate agent, it's my experience that a remarkable tree will add to the aesthetics and value of your property. My clients seek out trees as they provide interest and beauty to the property and naturally anchor the landscape. They provide shade, encourage birds and wildlife, and in your case stabilize the steep slope above you.

Several of us have contacted John Kenney, the City Arborist, to determine how we might save the tree. His advice is that we attempt to discuss, as neighbors, if there are other options that would alleviate your concerns about the tree and enable the tree to remain intact without impacting its structural integrity and associated beauty, shade, and ecological benefits.

Recently Jim and I shared our concerns to you about your intent to prune the tree and you stated that your major concern was the debris falling from the tree, especially acorns.

You also told us that you intend to remodel and replace your roof. If that's true, there are viable options using rigid insulation that would minimize the noise from the acorns. Jim's mother had a mid-century modern, and that is what she did. That coupled with the offer by a neighbor to hire a contractor to blow debris off your roof during the fall could address your concerns.

All of the neighbors on this street regardless of how long they have lived here, attempt to be considerate, helpful, and respectful of each other. We work in cooperation and communicate, without lawyers, to solve problems. Case in point, we are currently collaborating with two of our neighbors on tree maintenance and easement issues rather than insisting on a solution that just benefits our family. It takes time and patience, but it's the right thing to do to achieve a win-win solution.

In a 'nutshell', Dorothy, we hope you want to be a neighbor, not just a property owner.

Please reconsider your decision to cut back this exceptional Oak tree to your property line. We believe it will become an eye-sore and shorten the lifespan of this great tree. Dorothy, you still have an opportunity to build community if you choose to have a collaborative approach with your neighbors. But if you decide to pursue your own self-interests, we've been told by several of the neighbors that you will alienate yourself. And that would truly be unfortunate.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for you to reconsider pruning the legacy Oak tree. Feel free to contact us at your convenience to discuss this further.

Susan and Jim Mattison and neighbors