



HORTICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATED

July 16, 2010

William Fleming Associates, Inc.
5 Central Square, 3rd Fl
Stoneham, MA 02180

Re: Oak Tree at Hendries Building, Milton, MA

Dear Mr. Fleming:

I reviewed the condition of the large oak tree at the Hendries Building on Central Avenue in Milton on July 14, 2010.

I identified the tree as a large Black oak (*Quercus velutina*) with a trunk DBH of 58-inches (DBH:diameter measured at 4.5 feet above the ground). The tree had a crown spread of approximately 60-foot wide and a height of 50-feet. The tree is located within 10-feet of the sidewalk and in an upper terrace level of soil for a root zone of 40-feet deep and 50-feet wide. (Photograph 1)

Although the trees appears to have a full crown of foliage, most of the branches are either large old partially decayed scaffold limbs or adventitious growth formed as a result of storm damage, limb die back or severe pruning. The crown of this tree has been severely damaged over the years and not maintained. This condition creates large areas of decay in the crown which are prone to failure. (Photograph 2)

The plan calls for extreme grade changes, a loss of more than fifty percent of the existing root zone and a loss of some of the crown area.

It is my opinion as a Consulting Arborist that the tree is presently a high risk for failure. This condition would be exacerbated by any construction within the existing root zone. Because of the poor and unsafe condition of the tree, I would not recommend any preservation attempt. This tree should be removed. Note: The tree has a support wire, fastened to a dead limb, and extending to a utility pole across Eliot Street. Contact the utility to remove the wire.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

George N. Ackerson, President
Horticultural Technologies, Inc.
Member, American Society of Consulting Arborist
ISA and Massachusetts Arborist Association Certified Arborist
Encl: Photographs (2)
C: fleming.hendries.report.7-16-10

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