

December 17, 2010

William Clark

Director of Planning

525 Canton Ave

Milton, MA 02186

Re: Elliot Square's (58' DBH Black Oak)

Dear William,

Thank you for your confidence and remembering our firm. I could just as easily have changed our name to New England Heritage Tree Restoration Inc but Maltby & Co. Inc still has its ring to it. We've been in the neighborhood for a very long time and have on our payroll some of the best in the business.

It looks as though you are at a crossroads with this tree. Removal is routine but if the decision is to save it our proposal would include structural pruning (crown clean) this entire tree as well as trimming back as needed on the long ends to reduce weight from some of the heavy leaders and improve overall shape. This would also cut down on the demand for water and nutrients on the diminished root system which I mention further in the enclosed pages. This tree appears to be in fairly good condition considering its situation.

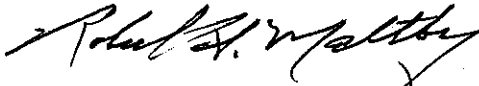
In regards to internodal growth, this tree has been extremely stressed over the last 25 years of dry conditions we have had in our area. Any apparent node spacing is going to be understandably minimal.

I'd be more than happy to meet with the developer's Arborist and see if there can be a meeting of the minds to allow this centerpiece to remain unscathed.

I certainly offer my services or someone like me should be called in to oversee the project as the town's "Certified Arborist on Call. Maltby & Co. Inc can supply the men and equipment to take on the entire project. It'll take a good knowledge of proper arboriculture, drainage and hardscape installation.

At this time, it is difficult to put a price tag on saving this "icon of the neighborhood" until we know what the developers' intentions for the site are going to be. Just trimming, fertilization, aeration of the soil is not a big deal monetarily, but I'd like to see more done in the way of reconstruction to allow this tree to thrive for ages to come and with the proper care, compliment the Square as it has for 200 plus years. Please contact me with any questions to may come up at 617-212-8143c.

Respectfully,



Robert S. Maltby MCA #1132 ISA #0364

Past President of the Mass Arborists Assoc.

Maltby & Company, Inc



As a much younger man working for my father's company, I would admire this tree while eating my lunch parked across the street. Over the years I've watched it decline due to drought stress, insect infestations, salt spray and lack of proper pruning. All this may be reversed by professional, structural pruning and adding a regimented program of timely fertilization and insect control.



This has been the setting for many years , although it wasn't that long ago that this magnificent tree enjoyed a much larger root system which I'm sure spread right out across the parking lot. With the installation of the retaining wall and brick steps a great portion of that root system is now gone. This has caused the immense growth this tree saw during its first years of life, slowed down to a crawl.

In order to preserve this tree, this area if possible, must be restored to allow the roots to spread out once again. Remove the wall, the brick walk and the asphalt and reconstruct a circular retaining wall to form an island encompassing the entire reconfigured drip area once the tree is structurally pruned. All this I realize is subject to limitations brought on by the new proposed building footprint. But it's in my opinion that if something along these lines is not possible, I'm sorry to say; I don't see this tree surviving for a very long time after more construction is completed.



From this angle, you can see the value this tree provides to the area and for this reason alone cannot be disturbed. My recommendation is remove the brick, the granite steps. From there the compacted surface throughout the area has to be loosened up. This could be done by air spading and having a special mixture of fertile loam and leaf mold folded in to cover the exposed roots and allow much needed air and water to filter in.



Its' obvious by this picture we're asking this tree to do the impossible. If the wall was removed, reconstructed further out from the trunk and the roots properly pruned to encourage new growth; we could then fill the void with a bed of stone, loam and topped off with an even covering of leaf mold compost to shield it from the radiant heat and hold moisture. The roots would quickly expand into this area and the tree would greatly benefit from it.