

November 16, 2015

Ms. Martha A. Morrison, Chair, Topsfield Planning Board  
c/o Ms. Roberta Knight, Purchasing and Community Development Coordinator  
Town of Topsfield  
Town Hall, 8 West Common Street  
Topsfield, MA 01983

Via: Email to: [rknight@topsfield-ma.gov](mailto:rknight@topsfield-ma.gov) and First Class Mail

Reference: Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Peer Review  
57 Perkins Row  
Topsfield, Massachusetts  
B+T Project No. 2613.00

Dear Ms. Morrison and Members of the Planning Board:

This letter is a supplement to our letter dated November 10, 2015 regarding the Definitive Subdivision Plan for 57 Perkins Row.

As mentioned in our November 10, 2015 letter, we visited the Site on November 9, 2015 with Town personnel and representatives of the Applicant to gain familiarity with the surrounding land use patterns and to evaluate the existing conditions with regard to the proposed development. During the site visit, we discussed and observed the presence of a significantly sized tree located at the northeast quadrant of the existing driveway/wetland crossing. The tree is noted as an existing 60" tree on the "Existing Conditions Plan," sheet 2 of 10 of the Definitive Subdivision Plan submitted by the Applicant. The existing tree is depicted in the photograph below.



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Based on the current design, the 60" tree cannot be retained and will be removed during construction of the subdivision roadway.

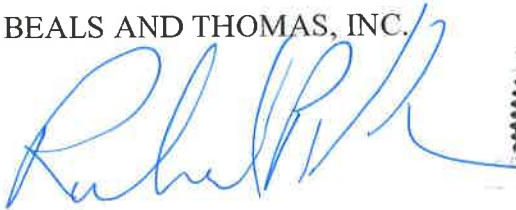
Subsequent to the site visit, we were advised that a member of the Topsfield Conservation Commission has identified the 60" tree to be a champion example of Pin Oak and has stated that removal of the tree will create a substantial disturbance to both the buffer zone and its adjoining resource area and that its removal will require a waiver from the Commission.

Appendix A "Requirements for Environmental Impact Statement" contained within the Topsfield Subdivision Control Rules and Regulations (Natural Environment item 6.c) requires a discussion of "the existence of rare or endangered plant, wildlife or fish species in the project area." Although "rare or endangered" is undefined, we presume that the intent is for state-listed species or those eligible for listing to be discussed. The Environmental Impact Statement submitted by the Applicant does not specifically acknowledge the 60" tree.

B+T has not independently verified the species nor the suggested rarity of the 60" tree, although we note that Pin Oak is not listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as rare, threatened or endangered. We recommend that the Planning Board directly discuss the status of this tree with the Applicant at the continued public hearing on November 17, 2015.

Very truly yours,

BEALS AND THOMAS, INC.



Richard P. Kosian, PE  
Executive Vice President

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