



June 21, 2022

Mr. Art Mahassel, President/CEO
UGPG RE Sutton LLC
223 Worcester-Providence Turnpike
Sutton MA 01590

Re: Tree Assessment, opposite 207 Boston Rd, Sutton

Mr. Mahassel,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a tree assessment at the above-mentioned location and future entryway for the project. Based on my meeting with Matt Piekarski, the following are the items to consider.

- Assess condition of 65" diameter American Sycamore in close proximity to future entrance.
- If preservable, provide specifications for necessary maintenance and protection through pre & post construction.
- Provide recommendations and pricing for other on-site observations that will benefit the tree and enhance the future entryway.

Species: American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): 65"
Approximate height: 105 ft
Approximate crown spread: 120 ft
Age: approx. 250 yrs.

Condition: Based on its age, location and annual battles with sycamore anthracnose (a leaf & stem fungus that effects most every sycamore) this tree is in "good" condition. Identified as a "Heritage" tree by the town several years ago, it appears that the tree received some maintenance pruning and possibly other maintenance several years ago. The tree has pockets of decay that are common with trees of this age and from the ground appear to be superficial.

Prognosis & recommendation: With proper tree maintenance, site work, pre and post construction protection and maintenance, this tree can continue to be an asset to the property.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR PRESERVATION & PROTECTION

Pre-Construction

- 1) Site work: Unfortunately, at the base of the tree out to the dripline and beyond there is “Japanese knot weed” an invasive plant that will need to be controlled. This will require mechanical removal and herbicide treatment that can take up to 3 years to gain control. Installation of landscape fabric and 4-6 inches of woodchip mulch will help “suffocate” the plants re-growth. This practice would be recommended for protection with or without the knot weed invasion. Installing mulch on top of the soil not only suppresses weed growth but also preserves moisture, improves soil condition and help prevent soil compaction.
- 2) Fencing: While orange snow fence can act as a barrier and identify critical root zone, historically they are not adhered to and bad things happen. Therefore, it is recommended that temporary chain-link fence be installed as out to drip line if possible.
- 3) Pruning: Pruning to improve safety, health, structure and appearance is necessary.
- 4) Bio-Stimulant fertilization: This is usually recommended. However, the knot weed may erupt in this case.
- 5) Competing trees: The removal of smaller, undesirable trees in vicinity will reduce competition for water and nutrients and in this case look better aesthetically.

Post Construction

- 1) Pruning of and dead, broken or vulnerable limbs, if necessary, in the future
- 2) Inspect site and root zone for issues surrounding knot weed and soil compaction.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Pricing for the above items available on request.

Andy Felix
President
ISA & Massachusetts Certified Arborist
ISA Tree Assessor, Qualified (TRAQ)