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SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 2, 2011
Approved Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Colfax called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito.

Present: Chair Grant Colfax, Vice Chair Mary Lee Bickford,
Committee Member Betsy Elliott, Committee Member Wingham Liddell
Absent: Committee Member Ronald Reich
Staff: Community Development Director Jeremy Graves
Assistant Planner Alison Thornberry

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Public Comments

None.

Approval of Minutes

May 5, 2011

Committee Member Liddell moved and Vice Chair Bickford seconded a motion to approve the minutes, as submitted. The motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearings

1. **TRP 11-144, Tree Removal Permit, Macannon, 83 Princess Street.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of one Coast Live Oak located at the front of the property at 83 Princess Street.

The public hearing was opened. Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee questions to staff:

- Can you explain what the Resistograph analysis is? *Staff responded the Resistograph checks the amount of decay inside the trunk and the suitability for preservation.*
- Does this Oak Tree 2 have Sudden Oak Death? *Staff responded no.*
- Do the arborists know the cause of the decay at the base of Oak Tree 2? *Staff responded the arborist has not stated a possible reason for the decay.*
- Will the resistograph determine a level of decay, such as high, medium, and low? Virtually all oaks have decay, so it will be important to know how much decay is there. *Staff responded the condition placed on this project requests*

1 *the analysis state any and all findings, but they do not know if the results will*
2 *be presented on a scale.*

- 3 • *Is there a date set for administration of the Resistograph? Staff responded the*
4 *approval is valid for one year per Condition 3, so the Tree Owner has to*
5 *provide the resistograph analysis results to staff within that time.*
- 6 • *Were trees planted to replace the two oaks taken out through emergency*
7 *removal? Staff responded no, but there is a Condition of Approval that three*
8 *replacement trees are to be planted.*

9
10 Presentation was made by Carol Macannon, the Tree Owner.

11
12 Committee questions to Ms. Macannon:

- 13 • *Which tree had part of it fall? Ms. Macannon responded Oak Tree 1, which has*
14 *been removed through an emergency permit.*
- 15 • *If the resistograph result shows the tree to be healthy, would you want to keep*
16 *the tree? Ms. Macannon responded she likes the tree, so yes, as long as the*
17 *tree is not in danger of falling on her home she would not seek its removal.*

18
19
20 The public comment period was opened. Being none, the public comment period was
21 closed.

22
23 Committee comment:

- 24 • *If the resistograph shows the tree to have decay it should not automatically be*
25 *cut down. The arborist should come before the Committee with his report and*
26 *the resistograph results before the decision is made to remove the tree.*

27
28 Amendment to Condition of Approval:

- 29 • *The final sentence in Condition of Approval 1 shall be changed to read, "If the*
30 *tree is deemed to be high risk and in imminent danger of failure, it may be*
31 *removed. If the tree does not meet the standard, then the Tree Removal Permit*
32 *shall return to the Trees & Views Committee for further consideration."*

33
34 Additional Condition of Approval:

- 35 • *The resistograph shall be administered by an arborist who would not financially*
36 *benefit from removal of the tree.*

37
38 **Vice Chair Bickford moved and Committee Member Elliott seconded a motion to**
39 **approve a Tree Removal Permit for 83 Princess Street subject to the amended**
40 **and additional Conditions of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.**

41
42 **Old Business**

43
44 **2. Trees & Views Committee Procedures, City of Sausalito.**

- 45 a. Meeting Procedures
- 46 b. Rosenberg's Rules of Order

47
48
49 Community Development Director Graves presented the Staff Report.

1 Committee question to staff:

- 2 • Are the Meeting Procedures subsumed by the Rosenberg Rules of Order?
3 *Staff responded no, it is a separate document specific to the Trees & Views*
4 *Committee. Staff recommends the Committee review it and make any*
5 *appropriate amendments. Staff will then return to the Committee with a*
6 *resolution to approve it, and then it will become the Committee's meeting*
7 *procedures. It can be amended in the future if needed.*

8
9 **The Trees & Views Committee directed staff to return with a Resolution of**
10 **Approval for the Meeting Procedures at the next meeting.**

11
12 **New Business**

13
14 **3. Discussion of Procedures for Trimming and Caring of Trees, City of**
15 **Sausalito.**

16
17 Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

18
19 Committee question to staff:

- 20 • Are there rules or regulations stipulated for stump removal when trees are cut
21 down? *Staff responded no.*

22
23 Committee comments:

- 24 • Stumps remaining after trees are removed can pose a hazard to the public
25 safety. When to have a stump removed should be addressed.
- 26 • 80-90% of tree removals the Committee has seen over the last several years
27 have been related to Sudden Oak Death, but there is no consensus on whether
28 stumps from Sudden Oak Death trees should be removed or left in place. In
29 order to educate the Committee an expert should be engaged to make a
30 presentation regarding Sudden Oak Death.

31
32 Staff comment:

- 33 • It is staff's understanding from arborist Ed Gurka that there are only a few
34 experts who give presentations on Sudden Oak Death. Staff will get on the wait
35 list and let the Committee know when a date is available. A special meeting
36 may be needed in order to ensure all Committee Members are able to attend.

37
38 Committee questions to staff:

- 39 • If a special meeting is held, can it be made into an education forum that the
40 public is made aware of and that not only would Sudden Oak Death be
41 discussed but also proper and improper tree trimming? *Staff responded it*
42 *would try to set that up.*
- 43 • Does the Department of Public Works have an information sheet on proper tree
44 trimming that the general public can have easy access and knowledge of? *Staff*
45 *responded they are not aware of any, but an article could be placed in the*
46 *Sausalito magazine put out by the Park and Recreation Department that would*
47 *talk about tree trimming techniques and remind residents if they plan to remove*
48 *more than 25% of their tree that a Tree Alteration Permit is required. Also*
49
50

1 something of that nature could be added on the City's web site, as well as a
2 flyer posted at City Hall.

- 3 • Can these educational articles in the Sausalito Currents, on the web site, and
4 in the flyer also include photographs that show badly trimmed trees, which are
5 everywhere? Staff responded if the Trees & Views Committee can supply such
6 photographs, they could include them in the postings.
7

8 **Committee comments:**

- 9 • Exhibit D states, "Removal of a healthy tree can be avoided by C) heading or
10 topping." It is the least preferable method due to the tree's health, appearance,
11 costs of maintenance, and it can be fatal to the tree. It should be removed as
12 an option.
13 • The 25% regulation should be stipulated.
14 • It should be part of a new Municipal Code that the City will only accept arborist
15 reports from arborists who are not affiliated with a tree removal company, or if
16 they are affiliated with a tree removal company that they agree to not remove
17 trees they recommend the removal of.
18 • After the Sudden Oak Death presentation by the expert direction should be
19 included in the ordinance regarding how to approach a tree with Sudden Oak
20 Death.
21 • Staff should touch base with Public Works regarding inviting arborists for
22 interviews by the Trees & Views Committee.
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25 **Communications**


26 **Staff**

- 27 • Tree Maintenance Activities – May 2011.
28

29 **Adjournment**

30 The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
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34 _____
35 Submitted by
36 Jeremy Graves, AICP
37 Community Development Director

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39 _____
40 Approved by
41 Grant Colfax
42 Chair

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