# SAUSALITO PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07

# APPROVAL OF A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT FOR THE REMOVAL OF ONE COAST LIVE OAK TREE AND A ZONING PERMIT FOR AN 85-SQUARE FOOT RESIDENTIAL ADDITION AT

626 MAIN STREET (APN: 065-231-27) PROJECT ID: 2024-00026

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2024, a Tree Removal Permit and Zoning Permit application was filed by the Applicant, Donald Lingeman, on behalf of Property Owners, Jan and Elizabeth Schat, requesting the removal of one (1) Coast Live Oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*), and the approval of an 85-square foot residential addition at 626 Main Street (APN: 065-231-27); and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission considered the application during a public meeting on April 24, 2024, at which time all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the staff report as well as any and all oral and written testimony on the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission finds that the application is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303 and Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines; and

#### NOW, THEREFORE, THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES:

The removal of one (1) Coast Live Oak tree, and the proposed 85-square foot residential addition at 626 Main Street (APN: 065-231-27) are hereby approved. This decision is based upon the findings provided in Attachment 1 and Conditions of Approval provided in Attachment 2. Plans can be found in Attachment 3.

**RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED,** at the regular meeting of the Planning Commission on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner: Marlatt, Junius, Feller, Saad, Luxenberg

NOES: Commissioner:

ABSENT: Commissioner: ABSTAIN: Commissioner:

Brandon Phipps

Director of Community and Economic Development

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Findings
- 2. Conditions of Approval
- 3. Plans

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**ATTACHMENT 1: FINDINGS** 

# **Tree Removal Permit**

When reviewing applications for tree removal the Planning Commission is directed to consider the criteria found in SMC Section 11.12.030(B)(1-3):

- B. Criteria for Grant or Denial of Application for Removal or Alteration of Protected Trees.
- 1. In order to grant a tree removal or alteration permit, it must be determined that removal or alteration is necessary in order to accomplish any one of the following objectives:
  - a. To ensure the public safety as it relates to the health of the tree, potential hazard to life or property, proximity to existing or proposed structures, and interference with utilities or sewers:
  - b. To allow reasonable enjoyment of the property, including sunlight, and the right to develop the property;
  - c. To take reasonable advantage of views;
  - d. To pursue good, professional practices of forestry or landscape design.

According to the arborist report on file, staff believes that the Coast Live Oak tree warrants removal of the righthand trunk to allow for the reasonable enjoyment of the property, including the right to develop the property per SMC 11.12.030(B)(1)(b). Staff also believes that the lefthand trunk should be removed due to its noted decay cavities and because it is a potential hazard to life and property due to its lean over the existing driveway easement per SMC 11.12.030(B)(1)(a).

- 2. In order to grant a tree removal permit, it must be determined that one of the following conditions is satisfied:
  - a. The tree to be removed will be replaced by a desirable tree; or
  - b. The applicant is required to pay a tree replacement fee in the amount established by City Council resolution; or
  - c. The Planning Commission waives the requirements in subsections (B)(2)(a) and (b) of this section based on information provided by the applicant/owner.

Pursuant to SMC 11.12.030(B)(2)(b) staff recommends that the applicant shall be required to pay a tree replacement fee in the amount of \$1,500 as established by City Council Resolution No. 6143 since the righthand trunk removal is needed to accommodate the proposed design, and since there is no replacement tree proposed as part of this application.

- 3. A finding of any one of the following is grounds for denial, regardless of the finding in subsection (B)(2)(a) of this section:
  - a. Removal of a healthy tree of a desired species can be avoided by:
    - i. Reasonable redesign of the site plan, prior to construction;
    - ii. Thinning to reduce density, e.g., open windows;
    - iii. Shaping to reduce height or spread, using thinning cuts only (drop crotch);
    - iv. Heading or topping this is the least preferable method, due to the tree's health and appearance and cost of maintenance.
  - b. Adequate provisions for drainage, erosion control, land stability, windscreen, visual screening, privacy and for restoration of ground cover and/or other foliage damaged by the tree work have not been made in situations where such problems are anticipated as a result of the removal or alteration.
  - c. The tree to be removed is a member of a group of trees in which each tree is dependent upon the others for survival.
  - d. The value of the tree to the neighborhood is greater than its inconvenience to the owner. The effects on visual, auditory, and wind screening, privacy and neighboring vegetation must be considered.
  - e. The need for protection of privacy for the property on which the tree is located and/or for adjacent properties.

After reviewing the arborist report and the materials on file, staff believes that none of the findings of denial in SMC 11.12.030(B)(3) can be made. The righthand trunk of the tree needs to be removed to accommodate the proposed 85-square foot residential addition, and the lefthand trunk has decay cavities and poses as a potential hazard for both the property owners and tenants at 626 and 628 Main Street, as well as the neighbor at 624 Main Street due to its lean over the existing driveway easement. The removal of the tree will not significantly affect the existing plants, drainage, or land stability. The subject tree is not a member of a group of trees, nor does it provide needed privacy screening.

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### ATTACHMENT 2: CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

#### **General Conditions**

- 1. The applicant shall revise the date shown on the submitted plans/drawings per Planning Commission direction to reflect the date of project/application submittal.
- 2. The property owner shall pay \$1,500 as specified in City Council Resolution No. 6143 into the Sausalito Tree Fund.
- 3. The Tree Removal Permit 2024-00026 shall not be issued prior to issuance of building permits for Zoning Permit 2024-00026.
- 4. The applicant/property owner shall defend, indemnify (including reimbursement of all fees and costs reasonably incurred by separate counsel retained by the City) and hold harmless the City and its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents and employees, from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, or expense, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees which City may suffer or incur as a result of any claims relating to or arising from the City's approval of the project or any portion of the project.
- 5. If any damage to a protected tree should occur during or as a result of work on the site, the contractor, builder, or owner shall promptly notify the City of such damage. If such a protected tree cannot be preserved in a healthy state, the reviewing agency shall require replacement of any protected tree removed with another tree or trees on the same site deemed adequate to compensate for the loss of the tree that is removed.

#### Advisory Notes:

Advisory notes are provided to inform the applicant of Sausalito Municipal Code requirements, and requirements imposed by other agencies. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the items listed below:

- 1. Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 12.16.140, the operation of construction, demolition, excavation, alteration, or repair devices and equipment within all residential zones and areas within a 500-foot radius of residential zones shall only take place during the following hours:
  - Weekdays Between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
  - Saturdays Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
  - Sundays and City Holidays (not including Sundays) Prohibited
  - Homeowners currently residing on the property and other legal residents may operate the equipment themselves on Sundays and City holidays between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- 2. All applicable City fees as established by City Council resolutions and ordinances shall be paid.
- 3. Pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 11.17, dumping of residues from washing of painting tools, concrete trucks and pumps, rock, sand, dirt, agricultural waste, or any other materials discharged into the City storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited. Liability for any such discharge shall be the responsibility of person(s) causing or responsible for the discharge. Violations constitute a misdemeanor in accordance with Section 11.17.060.B.

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**ATTACHMENT 3: PLANS** 











