

SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 7, 2011
Draft Minutes

Call to Order

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

Present: Vice Chair Mary Lee Bickford, Committee Member Betsy Elliott,
Committee Member Wingham Liddell, Committee Member Ronald Reich
Absent: Chair Grant Colfax
Staff: Assistant Planner Alison Thornberry-Assef

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

June 2, 2011

The Minutes of June 2, 2011 were approved 4-0.

Public Comments

None.

Public Hearings

- 1. TRP 11-144, Tree Removal Permit, Macannon, 83 Princess Street.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of Coast Live Oak Tree #2 located at the front of the property at 83 Princess Street. Continued from the June 2, 2011 Trees & Views Committee meeting.

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

The public comment period was opened. Being none, the public comment period was closed.

Committee comments:

- There are a lot of Coast Live Oaks at the subject site, leading to the assumption that the owner wants the tree removed for safety reasons, not for view purposes.

Amended Condition of Approval:

- A replacement Coast Live Oak should be planted on the site with the size in accordance with the Conditions of Approval.

1 **Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a**
2 **motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 83 Princess Street, subject to the**
3 **amended Condition of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.**
4

- 5 **2. TRP 11-185, Tree Removal Permit, Hothem, 122 San Carlos Avenue.** Tree
6 Removal Permit to allow the removal of one Coast Live Oak located at the front of
7 the property at 122 San Carlos Avenue.
8

9 The public hearing was opened. Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff
10 Report.
11

12 Committee question to staff:

- 13
 - 14 Given that the arborist report states there are signs of Sudden Oak Death and
15 that the tree is a danger with rotting roots, why should the time be taken to
16 have another arborist inspect the tree? *Staff responded the arborist hired by
17 the City recommended the additional test be done because this tree may not
18 be as dangerous or hazardous as stated by the arborist hired by the property
19 owner.*

20 Presentation was made by Kristi Swift of Swift Tree Care, the applicant.
21

22 The public comment period was opened. Being none, the public comment period was
23 closed.
24

25 Committee questions to staff:

- 26
 - 27 Of the three arborist reports presented, how many of them recommend further
28 studies on the root rot before removal of the tree? *Staff responded the two
29 reports from arborists hired by the property owner do not recommend study of
30 the root rot, and the report by the City-hired arborist does recommend it.*

31 Committee comments:

- 32
 - 33 Because of the conflicting arborist reports, the Committee should look more
34 carefully at the reports.
 - 35 The tree has not been treated well over the years. It has been topped,
36 chopped, and the base has had a wall put around it.
 - 37 It would not hurt to have a study done of the root rot and the City-hired arborist
38 recommends it. It should not be removed unless the Committee is completely
39 sure it needs to be.
 - 40 It would be wise to remove the dangerous limbs while the roots are being
41 examined.
42

43 Committee questions to staff:

- 44
 - 45 How long would it take for the City-hired arborist to research and report on the
46 roots and condition of this tree? *Staff responded that is up to the applicant to
47 provide this information. This is not something the City would hire its own
48 arborist to do.*
 - 49 Has this type of test on the roots already been done through the present
50 arborist? *Staff responded, no, that test was not done.*

1 The public comment period was reopened.

2
3 Committee by the Ms. Swift:

- 4 • Removing the two dangerous limbs would leave the homeowner with one stick,
5 leaving the tree terribly chopped and butchered even more.
6

7 The public comment period was closed.
8

9 **Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a**
10 **motion to postpone decision to remove the Coast Live Oak at 122 San Carlos**
11 **Avenue until such time an arborist tests the roots and condition of the tree.**
12

13 **Committee Member Liddell rescinded his motion.**
14

15 **Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a**
16 **motion to approve the resolution as written by staff. The motion passed 4-0.**
17

- 18 **3. TRP 11-204, Tree Removal Permit, Kendell Court Condominiums, 700 Block**
19 **of Nevada Street.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of 13 Myoporum
20 Shrubs located on the 700 block of Nevada Street, along the Kendell Court
21 Condominiums.
22

23 The public hearing was opened. Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff
24 Report.
25

26 Committee question to staff:

- 27 • Are Myoporum Shrubs a native or non-native species? *Staff responded that*
28 *that is question for the Arborist.*
29

30 The public comment period was opened.
31

32 Presentation was made by Nancy Osborn, the applicant.
33

34 Committee questions to Ms. Osborn:

- 35 • What size are the replacement bushes you are planning to install? *Ms. Osborn*
36 *responded a minimum of five-gallon plants.*
37
- 38 • What is the rate of growth for the planned replacement shrubs? *Ms. Orborn*
39 *responded they are fast growing.*
40
- 41 • Are the replacement shrubs a native or non-native species? *Ms. Osborn*
42 *responded she does not know.*
43

44 The public comment period was closed.
45

46 Amended Condition of Approval:

- 47 • The Myoporum Shrubs may be replaced with native plantings where and
48 whenever possible.
49

50 **Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a**
motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for the Kendell Court Condominiums

located on the 700 block of Nevada Street, subject to the amended Condition of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

- 4. Trees & Views Committee Meeting Procedures.** Meeting procedures to facilitate the efficient management and conduct of Trees & Views Committee meetings.

Old Business was opened. Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee Member Liddell moved and Committee Member Reich seconded a motion to continue the Trees & Views Committee Meeting Procedures to the meeting of September 1, 2011. The motion passed 4-0.

New Business

- 5. Set Date and Time for Special Meeting for Site Visit to 509 Litho Street and 93 Girard Avenue Regarding View Claim (TRP 11-184).**

New Business was opened. Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee question to staff:

- Is it staff's recommendation that the Trees & Views Committee do the site visit as a group? *Staff responded yes, the Committee members will see the same things at the same time and it makes it easier on the claimant and the tree owner, although members can go individually if necessary.*

By consensus it was decided to do the site visits to 509 Litho Street and 93 Girard Avenue on July 14, 2011 at 8:30am.

Staff Communications

Staff

- Department of Public Works Tree Maintenance Activities – June 2011.
 - List was presented of trees to be removed from public property.
- Schedule for Presentation on Sudden Oak Death Syndrome
 - Presentation is scheduled for September 1, 2011 as a study session for the Trees & Views Committee and the Sausalito community.
 - The presentation should be cancelled for September 1st, as that is the Labor Day weekend. The presentation should be rescheduled to October 6, 2011, which will also allow more time to alert the public.

1 **Adjournment**

2 The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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6 _____
7 Submitted by
8 Alison Thornberry-Assef
9 Assistant Planner

Approved by
Mary Lee Bickford
Vice Chair

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