

January 19, 2018

Re: Arborists' Reports

Dear Maria Morelli and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

What we have learned from the Babcock Place Tree Protection Report is that the Babcock Place team has NO INTEREST IN TREE PROTECTION unless legally forced to do so. This report does not identify a single tree existing on the Slater property that will be protected. This was also evident in the Landscape Plan since it did not identify any existing trees on the proposed plans nor those immediately adjacent on abutters' properties.

Not only does the Tree Report fail to acknowledge any of the more than 20 trees that are existing on the 134-138 property today, it fails to address 13 of the trees on abutters' properties identified by Natural Path Forestry as endangered by the project. How are these protected?

Furthermore, the protections proposed by the Gaffin report directly conflict with the Landscape Plan and the McPhail geotechnical report, 1/16/18. For example, the Landscape Plan proposes planting and concrete footings within the area the McPhail report identifies as retained soils of the "existing/proposed ground."

The Town Arborist's and Town Landscape Architect's report dated December 5, 2017 states:

Loss of Existing Trees on Site Trees should be replaced on a per caliper inch basis. If space does not permit such effort on the site then the replacement trees could be planted in the public way as approved by the Parks and Open Space Division.

I calculate that approximately 180 caliper inches of existing trees will be destroyed by the proposed Babcock Place. The revised Landscape Plan proposes 24 caliper inches of new trees. There remain 156 caliper inches of replacement trees, approximately 75 trees, that need to be planted in locations determined by the Parks and Open Space Division. Is POSD also responsible for measuring the existing trees' calipers? Who is responsible to procure and approve of the replacement trees? And in what time frame?

Thank you in advance for addressing these issues,
Gina Crandell, TMM8
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