



Memo

To: The Atherton Planning Commission
From: Sally D Bentz-Dalton, Town Arborist
CC: Sung Kwon, Town Planner
Date: 4/20/23
Re: Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Exception 345 Stockbridge

I have reviewed the application at 345 Stockbridge and offer the following observations and recommendation for your review:

The applicant is applying for TPZ exceptions for the following trees:

Request 1&2: Tree A & B – 6x for an expanded driveway
Request 3: Tree C – 6x for an ADU, Garage and Pool House

In February 2023, an Arborist report inventory was conducted for the three trees by JC Tree Care & Landscape.

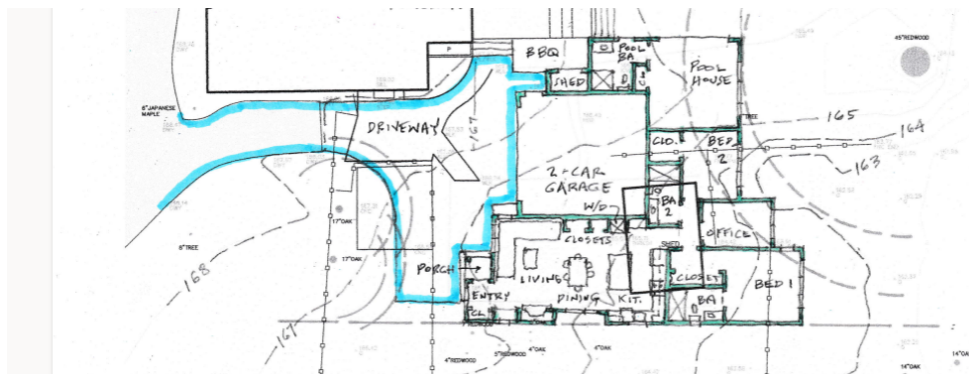
Below is the summary of the Three Heritage Trees involved:

Tree	Species	DBH (inch)	Conditions	Comments
A	Coast Live Oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	18	70 Good vigor, good form.	Healthy tree. (Located at the entrance of the ideal site for a new garage)
B	Coast Live Oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	18	70 Good vigor, good form.	Healthy tree. (Located at the entrance of the ideal site for a new garage)
C	Redwood (<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>)	58 est.	60. Fair vigor, fair form, drought stressed.	Half of the tree turned brown in Summer 2022. Atherton Arborist issued a letter asking for its removal in August 2022. Owner and JC Trees nursed it back to health with daily extra water irrigation. As of February 2023, the tree is alive and survived the drought, with leaves growing back.

I visited the site on April 19th, 2023, to see existing grades and site conditions.

Request 1&2: Tree A & B – 6x for an expanded driveway

There is an existing driveway and hardscape. There was also a shed located in the area. As part of this proposal the applicant will be removing some of the existing hardscape near trees A & B and moving the driveway further back than existing conditions. Because of the condition of the Oaks and tolerance to construction impacts I can recommend the 6x TPZ for the driveway for trees A & B.



Request 3: Tree C – 6x for an ADU, Garage and Pool House

In July of 2022 I sent the homeowner a letter requiring the removal of Redwood, Tree C. The owner watered the tree on a regular basis which took much time and money and brought the tree back to life.

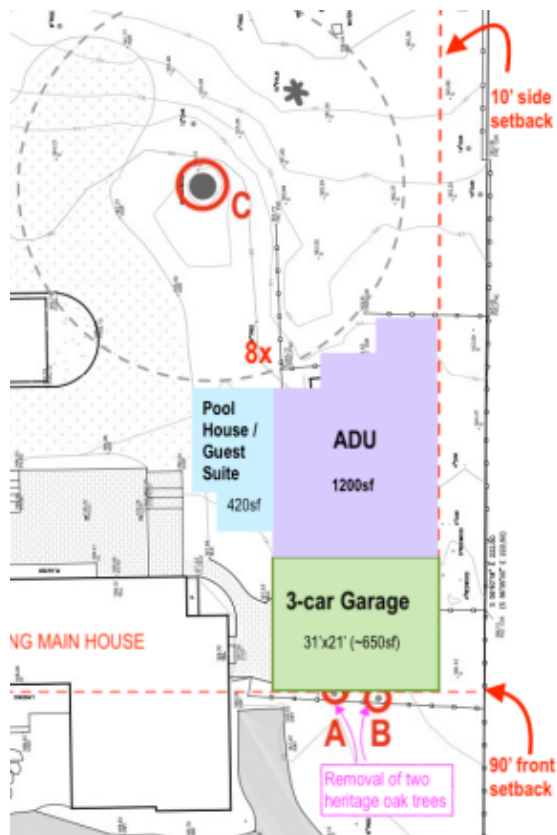
The applicant is asking for 6x TPZ for one structure that will be a garage, pool house and ADU. The existing conditions have a grade change, a shed and an area where a dead Redwood was.

The applicant is saying that for the part of the structure within 8x of Tree C, they will build it with slab on grade to minimize root cutting and potential root damage.

If the applicant proposed the structure at 8x then they would be requesting the tree removals of tree A & B. I would not be able to recommend that.

Tree C will need to continue to be watered during the extent of this project. I can recommend the 6x TPZ for the proposed structure because of the existing conditions and slab on grade within 8x TPZ.

Tree C - Existing site and empty area is location of the dead removed Redwood:



In conclusion:

I can recommend the below 3 requests:

Request 1 & 2: Tree A & B – 6x for an expanded driveway

Request 3: Tree C – 6x for an ADU, Garage and Pool House

The following are requirements:

- Hand excavation only within 8x TPZ
- The area under the drip line of trees should be thoroughly irrigated to a soil depth of 18” every 3-4 weeks during the dry months.
- Mulch should cover all bare soils within the tree protection fencing. This material must be 6-8 inches in depth after spreading, which must be done by hand. Coarse wood chips are preferred because they are organic and degrade naturally over time.

I can recommend the exceptions based on the criteria below from Section 2.2 B. 2.

The probability of failure which is a function of heritage tree and site conditions such as, but not limited to, structural defects, presence of disease, species history, age or remaining life span, and varying weather conditions.

The information included in this memo is believed to be true and based on sound arboricultural principles and practices.

Sincerely,

Sally Bentz

Town Arborist

Certified Arborist WE#9238AM