



CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

TO: HALRB
FROM: Rebecca Ballo, Historic Preservation Planner
DATE: August 11, 2015
SUBJECT: Colonial Village III, CoA 15-09, Colonial Village Historic District

The management and condominium board of Colonial Village III, located within the Colonial Village Historic District, are proposing to remove eleven (11) trees. The trees are as follows:

- An oak tree on the west side of 1736 Queens Lane;
- Eight (8) pear trees in front of 1737 Queens Lane;
- An elm tree in front of 1801 Queens Lane; and
- A cherry tree in front of 1804 Queens Lane.

The maple tree located adjacent to 1831 Wilson Boulevard also had been included in the original application, but has since been removed.

The county's Urban Forester assessed this request and provided the following report on July 30, 2015:

Behind 1435 N Rhodes St, there is a Pin Oak (Quercus palustris) which is on its way out. The canopy is more than 70% dead, and it's time to remove it. It's 13.5 inches DBH, so this does not require a COA, as far as I can tell. I recommend replacing it with a more shade-tolerant canopy tree, such as a blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica)

There is a grove of Bradford pears (Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford') in front of 1737 Queens Ln. They are all under 15 inches. They're in fair condition, but are not a desirable species, as they are invasive and prone to limb breakage. Removal wouldn't call for a COA, but I recommend removing them gradually, maybe 2 a year, and replacing them with Medium or Small trees from the recommended tree list (see below). Sweetbay magnolias (Magnolia virginiana), Sourwood (Oxydendrum arboreum), or Carolina Silverbell (Halesia Carolina) would provide great native or semi-native replacements for these, and they would not become a vertical maintenance issue.

There is a large 41 inch Siberian Elm just North of the Bradford pears, which is aesthetically unappealing and an invasive species. It's otherwise doing okay, given how much pruning it has gotten. Removal of this tree would require a COA, and given its invasive nature and poor form, I would recommend removal, if this were applied for. Replacement would be more than 1 canopy tree. The replacement calculation (per the County's replacement guidelines at <http://topics.arlingtonva.us/building/tree-replacement-guidelines/>) would be:

41 (size) X 0.35 (species rating) X 0.50 (condition) = 7.175, which amounts to 2 replacement canopy trees. The suggested American beech would be appropriate, and so would anything from the Shade Tree list in the recommended tree lists below. If replacements go in the RPA, they need to be native species.

Finally, a 20 inch Kwanzan cherry was removed “accidentally” earlier this year. It is claimed to have been dead. Assuming a poor condition, I would require 1 replacement canopy tree or 3 replacement ornamental small trees. The suggested Eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis) is appropriate, but per our guidelines, three would have to be planted. They do not need to be planted in the same place. 1 canopy tree would work, as well, and an interesting upright species for this space would be a baldcypress (Taxodium distichum), which doesn’t have much horizontal spread, but is a very interesting tree.

The applicant is proposing 11 replacement trees. All would go in the wooded area along Colonial Village Run. Per the Urban Foresters recommendations, all plantings in this area should be native species. In addition, the applicant is proposing 1 American Red Bud in the location of the felled cherry tree. The Urban Forester recommended either 3 ornamental trees or 1 canopy shade tree in this location per the following list: <http://environment.arlingtonva.us/trees/plant-trees/recommended-trees/> .

The DRC asked that the maple tree on Wilson Boulevard remain, per the Urban Forester’s recommendations, and that it be reassessed next year. The DRC recommended the approval of this amended application, and asked that this case be placed on the consent agenda for the August 19, 2015, HALRB meeting. Staff recommends approval of the application, with the amendment that 3 ornamental trees or 1 canopy shade tree be planted in place of the cherry tree. Staff finds that the request meets the intent of *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards* and recommends approval.