



City of Harrisonburg

Department of Planning and Community Development

409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
540-432-7700

www.harrisonburgva.gov/community-development

Memorandum

To: Public Tree Advisory Board (PTAB)
From: Adam Fletcher, Director of Planning and Community Development
RE: Tree Removal Request – In front of 11 Court Square
Date: Monday, October 7, 2019

We have received a request to remove a tree within Court Square. First Presbyterian Church is making preparations to demolish the building they own at 11 Court Square. Chris Furry, Facilities Manager for First Presbyterian Church, is representing the church in this application.

Please note that although the application states that they are not planning to install a tree after demolition, in conversation with Mr. Furry, I can confirm that the church is willing to replant a tree if the request to remove the tree is approved.

Given the circumstances associated with this request, I believe it might be in the best interest of the group to meet on site to discuss this matter. I will work to find a time for the PTAB to meet on site.

Please review the application and supporting material. We can further discuss this issue when the group meets. If you have any questions, please let me know.



APPLICATION FOR REMOVING TREES
WITHIN CITY RIGHT-OR-WAY OR ON CITY
OWNED PROPERTY

I/We, the undersigned request permission to: (Explanation for Removal and Replacement Planting)

Remove the one tree planted in front of our property located at 11 Court Square, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

We are needing front access for the demolition of the building on stated property. We are not planning on planting another tree after demo, as we are currently wokring on a developed green space with various options for church and community use which will include a secure gated fenced area that will be visible from Court Square.

Wendell Maust with Maust Enterprises of Virginia will be contracted for the work. 540 432 0584

(General description of work including location of trees and who will do the work)

In requesting permission the following provisions are agreed to:

- 1. The undersigned assumes responsibility for the safe completion of the work in accordance with the City of Harrisonburg Public Tree Policy.
2. The applicant agrees to indemnify and save harmless the City of Harrisonburg, members of the City Council, city employees, agents and officers, from responsibility, damage or liability arising from the exercises of the privileges granted in such permits.
3. It is understood that, should any work allowed under this agreement become a safety hazard in the opinion of the City of Harrisonburg, the City may at its discretion take over the work and may charge the applicant for work done by the City or its contractor.

NAME: First Presbyterian Church

DATE: 9-26-19

ADDRESS: 17 Court Square

Harrisonburg, VA 22082

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE):

PHONE: 540-434-6551 Ext 107

SIGNATURE:

Chris Furry Facilities Manager
Chris Furry

Please attach any sketch or further description.

Permission is hereby given by the City of Harrisonburg to perform the work described by this application.

Signature, Chair Public Tree Advisory Board

Printed Name

10-14-19

Date

Request Denied.

Special Conditions of Approval (if any):

See additional sheet for detailed information regarding the vote, decision, and comments.



CITY OF HARRISONBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

OFFICE (540) 432-7700 • FAX (540) 432-7777

To: Chris Furry, Facilities Manager, First Presbyterian Church

From: Public Tree Advisory Board

RE: Tree Removal Request – In front of 11 Court Square

Date: Monday, October 14, 2019

The request to remove the Chinese Elm tree along the northern side of Court Square adjacent to 11 Court Square has been denied by the Public Tree Advisory Board with a 6-3 vote. As you continue to plan for your demolition project, you will need to obtain a public access permit with the Department of Public Works. During this permitting process, you can work with staff to determine best practices for protecting the tree. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Below are some comments from each group member:

Voting to Deny the Request

Benjamin Bear = My inclination is to keep the tree and deny the application. The tree does indeed appear to be healthy and it creates a nice aesthetic for our downtown having the tree just to the east of the one in question matching its size and species.

Brian O'Dell = Based on the current canopy in the court square area, it seems to me we want this tree to stay based on its age, size and proximity to the tree just to the east. I would imagine that Maust Construction is doing this for convenience and if we said no, it may get damaged but not removed. I would think it would be prudent to ask Wendell what his alternative plan is if the City says no to the tree replacement. In general, I am not in favor of its removal.

Carole Nash = I vote to deny the proposal. The tree is healthy and contributes to the overall treescape design implemented around Court Square about a decade ago. If it were to be removed (and even if a new tree were planted), the design would be disrupted. Originally, the relatively evenly-spaced tree planting was intended to convey Court Square as a human-scale, pedestrian-friendly space.

Jeremy Harold = At this point, I vote to deny the application. I echo other thoughts. The two trees on that side of Court Square are the same age. It would look awkward taking this tree out and leaving the other. I believe this is a convenience option for the contractor. After stopping by the tree Friday, I believe we could meet with Wendell to strategize a way to leave the tree during

demolition. We can prune the tree back off the building to allow more room to work. A plywood barrier can be built to protect the base of the tree also.

Wesley Runion = After reviewing the health and soil conditions of the Chinese Elm, my vote would be to deny the removal request. The tree is in great health and has grown well since planting. It would be hard to get a replacement tree planting to do as well as the current tree. It is at a DBH of 10” which shows its adaptation to poor site conditions.

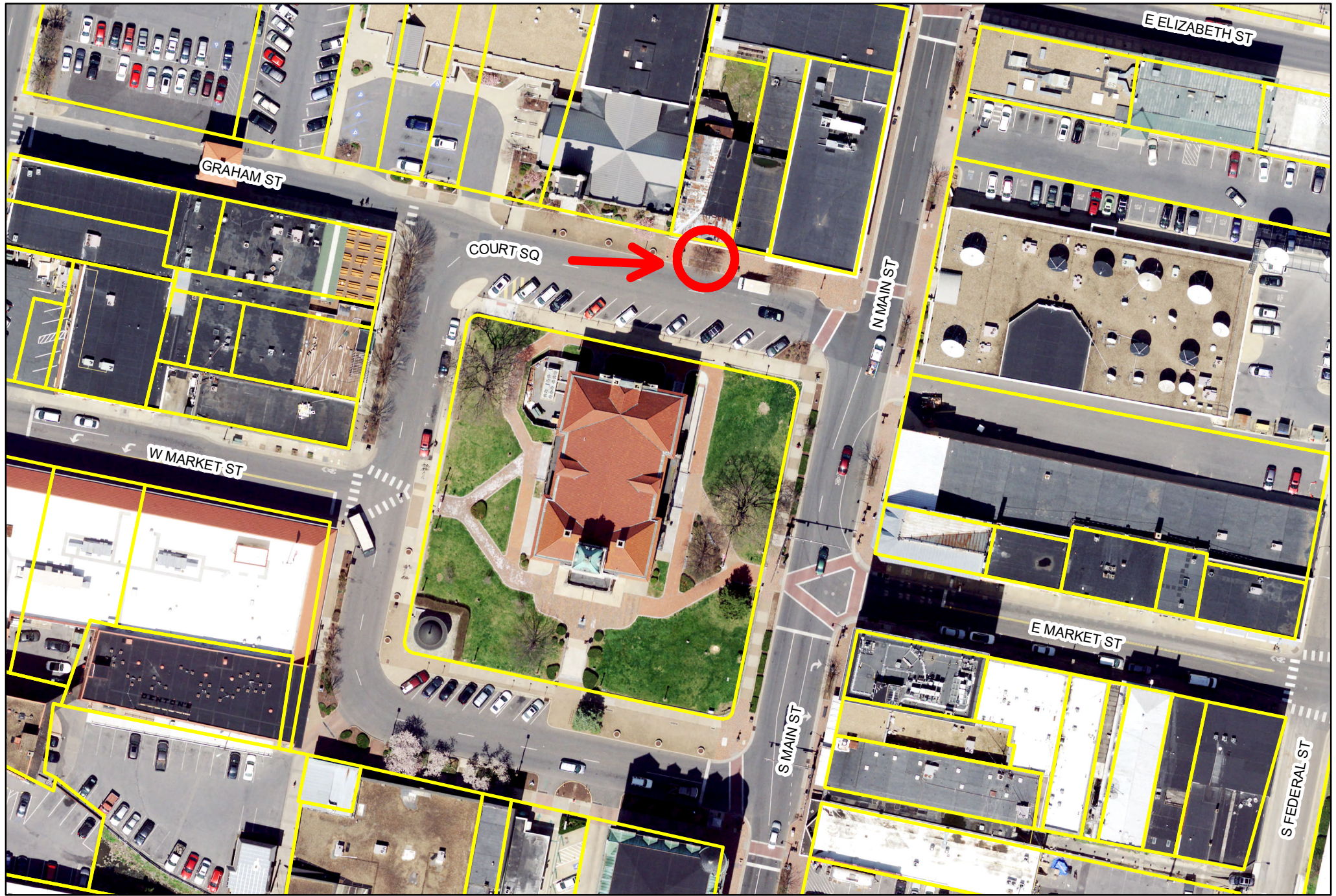
Adam Fletcher = At this time, I vote to deny the request. I see no reason to remove the tree simply because it makes it easier to perform the work to tear down the building.

Voting to Approve the Request

Christopher Mortenson = I am going to approve the request. I feel that since the church does not own the sidewalk we can always replant a nice shade tree when the work is done. I would hate to impede progress around an area of the city that is seen by many tourists and residents alike.

Dave Gray = No concerns with removing the tree as it has no impact on public utilities.

Kurt Schick = Approves removal of the tree.



Tree Removal Request
In front of 11 Court Square (First Presbyterian Church)

Tree Removal Request

In front of 11 Court Square (First Presbyterian Church)

Legend



Tree Removal Request

In front of 11 Court Square (First Presbyterian Church)

Legend



Tree Removal Request

In front of 11 Court Square (First Presbyterian Church)

Legend



Tree Removal Request

In front of 11 Court Square (First Presbyterian Church)

Legend



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