

Introduction:

This description of work outlines the proposed tree removal and proposed work at 21 Brewer Lane, Reading, MA. Eight living trees within the buffer zone are considered to provide habitat that will be replaced by the proposed work. In addition, removal of invasive species as part of the proposed work will further benefit the wetland by preserving natural vegetation.

Scope:

This description of work includes tree removal and plantings in or near the wetland buffer zone. Trees outside of this zone are not part of the scope of work required to be considered by the conservation committee. The proposed new landscaping and plantings, including the removal of invasive bamboo, are meant to be compensatory for the removed living trees in the buffer zone only.

References:

Locus Map

Current Site Map, 21 Brewer Lane

Proposed Work, 21 Brewer Lane

John Maquis Letter 06SEP2022

Recent Tree Hazards at 21 Brewer

Tree Images from 21 Brewer Lane

Description of Work:

Tree Removal

Eight living trees within the buffer zone, and one on the edge of the buffer zone will be removed ("A", "C" through "J" on Current Site Map, 21 Brewer). An additional dead tree ("B" on Current Site Map) will be removed. Each of these trees is in close proximity to the home at 21 Brewer and poses a risk to the permanent structure per a qualified arborist's evaluation (See John Marquis Letter 06SEP2022).

Proposed Work

The proposed work includes the planting of three trees, planting of eight bushes, and the removal of an approximately 5'x25' swatch of bamboo. The removal of the planted bamboo ("B" in Proposed Work, 21 Brewer) will prevent the migration of this invasive species into the wetland, or further propagation in the buffer zone or zone of natural vegetation.

Two Red Maple trees will be planted in the southeast corner of the property ("A" in Proposed Work) to replace the privacy that the bamboo is currently providing from the adjacent property. In the southwest corner, an Elm tree will be planted ("E" in Proposed Work). An additional two Shadbush ("D" in Proposed Work) will be planted in this area of the property. These plantings in the southwest corner of the property will provide a living root system to prevent any erosion from occurring and control run off from the elevation on the west side of the property.

Description of Work

March 8th, 2023

Six Rosebay Rhododendron bushes ("C" in Proposed Work) will be planted along the southern wall of the property. In addition to providing habitat, the bushes will help prevent any additional erosion and control run off towards the wetland. The rock wall at the southern edge of the property will also remain intact and continue to maintain a barrier between the property and the wetland.

Description of Benefits:

The trees currently pose a hazard to the home located at 21 Brewer Lane according to arborists evaluations (John Marquis Letter 06SEP2022). Removing threatening pine trees ensures the safety of the home and its occupants from falling branches and trees. Since this evaluation was authored, both large limbs and whole trees have come down on or adjacent to the property (See Recent Tree Hazards at 21 Brewer for examples).

The trees that will be removed provide habitat that will be lost. In addition, the root systems currently provide protection from erosion. Due to the topography of the property, location of the permanent structure, and location of the proposed work, run-off from the street would be unaffected by the removal of the trees. There is no impact anticipated to public or private water supply, groundwater supply, flood control, or water pollution.

The proposed work will benefit the wetlands by replacing the lost habitat, providing plantings and new root systems to prevent erosion on the west edge of the property. In addition to taking these steps to replace the lost habitat, the removal of bamboo from the planted swatch in the southeast corner is a major benefit to the ecosystem. As a fast-growing, invasive species, bamboo can quickly spread and crowd out native plants. Removal and disposal of the bamboo will prevent this and help maintain the natural vegetation in the buffer zone and the wetland itself.