

Hello Commission Members,

My name is Jessi Gress and I am a Project Manager with High Marsh Landscape Contractors. I am here today to represent our client to remove a 19 inch Magnolia tree located at 2108 Pettigrew Street. Our staff noticed decline in this magnolia tree around the beginning of March and immediately seek out Charleston Arborist for their opinion. We met them on site on March 13th, and an infestation of Twig Borers was discovered. At our site meeting, it was also discovered that they twig borers have infested 5 nearby olive trees on the property. Following this visit and based on the recommendation of the arborist, the property owner requested the removal of the magnolia due to signs of significant decline and the risk these bugs pose to other trees, including those in the neighbor's yard.

This magnolia was existing prior to construction and the olives were installed roughly a year ago. After being informed by town staff that removal would require Commission approval (which was five weeks away), the property owner decided to treat the magnolia in attempt to slow the deterioration of the magnolia and reduce the risk of spread until the commission meeting. On March 20th, Charleston Arborist came out to complete treatment. Once work began, it was determined that the infestation was far greater than originally noted.

Due to the high volume of infestation, the treatment plan is unlikely to resolve the issue of the infestation, meaning that the twig borers will continue to cause damage to the magnolia declining in its overall health, and will likely continue to spread to the olives and the overall landscape of our clients home.

We are seeking your approval to remove this magnolia tree. With the high volume of infestation, to remove all the twig borers we would have to cut so many limbs in addition to the ones we have already removed to a point where there wouldn't be much left with the exception of the trunk. Again, these twig borers are traveling inward in deeper depths of the limbs than usual. This is a high concern and we all feel its imperative to have this tree removed.

Thank you for taking the time to review our application and we hope you grant the removal of this magnolia as its steady decline, proper treatment (limb removal) will ultimately cause death, and its an overall hazard to the entire landscape of this property.