VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY

Building Department
112 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
Phone: (914) 231-8509 | Fax: (914) 693-3470

Daniel Roemer
Building Inspector

Permit Application

Application Number AT2023-0033 **Date** 07/05/2023

Job Location 14 LEWIS AVE **Lot #** 3.60-32-36

Owner: JENNIFER M SPINA
14 LEWIS AVE
DOBBS FERRY, NY 10522

Applicant: Jennifer Spina
14 Lewis Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
(914)536-9995 spinah1@hotmail.com

Application Type: Tree Removal **Estimated Cost of Construction:** $

Description of Work: Remove 6 pine trees and trim back a cherry blossom

Form Questions:

Application Parcel Owner Contact:

Parcel Owner Email	Spinah1@hotmail.com
Parcel Owner Phone	9145369995

Arborist Letter to Village of Dobbs Ferry,

My name is Richard M. Ovalle, certified ISA arborist (ID: NY-6059A), and I am writing on behalf of my client to recommend removal of noted trees below.

The trees are all *Pinus strobus* or Eastern White Pine. In Britain, this species is also called the Weymouth Pine, in honor of English explorer Captain George Weymouth, who took Eastern White Pine seeds to England from Maine in 1605. The British Crown instituted the first White Pine Act in Massachusetts in 1691 but extended to all of New England by 1711. The Act prohibited the harvesting of white pine trees larger than 24" in diameter, White Pines became sought after specimens for use as masts on Royal Navy ships. They had the largest navy at the time, but left a bad taste in the mouth of the colonists and they weren't as accommodating in the coming decades with the likes of the Stamp & Sugar Acts.

The Pine trees noted below are part of a 20+ year evergreen screen. White Pines are cheap and many people planted them heavily during the 80's & 90's without thinking of their long-term ramifications. The reason these trees are ill suited for screening is because they eventually lose their lower limbs and expose the areas originally meant to be screened. Maintaining the trees to act as screens requires more work and money which would be unnecessary with other evergreens and an undue burden on the homeowner. The trees have a shallow root system and grow on top of ledge rock which means that not much is holding them back and they don't have a forest of other pines to help lessen the wind. With a shaky foundation to grow on and leaning towards the house, the trees are also weak wooded and more susceptible to damage than other trees during storms, making for many sleepless nights.

1) Eastern White Pine (1 of 7) – front yard, closest to street

This pine tree has an exposed **ROOT FLAIR**, on the front side but the soil beneath has been excavated and exposed. The exposure makes the **CRITICAL ROOT ZONE (CRZ)** susceptible to temperature extremes. The back end has no **ROOT FLAIR** because it is buried and slowly suffocating the tree since trunks were meant to be above ground for a reason. The tree has suffered a major wound, the central leader has broken off. As I mentioned earlier, the White Pines are weak wooded and suffered mechanical damage due to severe weather. It may have been ice, snow or wind? The subsequent leader that will emerge will only drain the main trunk of vital food and nutrients. The tree has a crick in it's trunk close to the base. The crick may have been caused by moving ground moving slowly underneath the roots. The excavated soil, noted in supplement, at the tree's base may be proof of soil migration. The long-term prognosis of a healthy and speedy recover I not good, so I recommend removal of tree because I consider this a **HAZARD** tree. The top has recently broken off, possibly more tomorrow.

2) Eastern White Pine (2 of 7) – front yard, closest to left front corner of house

This pine tree has no exposed **ROOT FLAIR**, growing along a slope. The means that the **CRZ** is buried and slowly suffocating the tree. The tree may have lost it's leader, at some point, because new stems emerged to take on the role for leadership position. Sometimes these stems grow in an unsafe manner and are called **CODOMINANT STEMS**, which are two or more main stems that emerge from the same location on the main trunk. Though such stems may look fine to the casual observer, they may be dangerous. The **CODOMINANT STEMS** form a **"V" UNION** which is more likely to fail than a **"U" UNION**. Stems with a **"V' UNION** compress bark between them as they grow, leaving little physical connection. The tree is near the house and has a **MODERATE LEAN** toward the house. I would categorize this tree as a **RISK** with five **CODOMINANT STEMS** and therefore recommend its removal.

3) Eastern White Pine (3 of 7) – left side perimeter, across from house

This White Pine is growing apart from the others but has no lateral branches at all, only top growth. The lower branches will never grow back giving the tree any shape or form. The tree most likely was the odd man out in the group and was outcompeted by the other trees. A small retaining wall was installed to help stabilize the soil for the tree but the wall has affected it's root growth. The back side of the tree has no exposed **ROOT FLAIR**, affecting the **CRZ** and the front side has many exposed roots from years of erosion. The lack of soil around the roots means that the tree has less anchoring to keep it stable from damaging winds. Several roots have become exposed which makes them more susceptible to climate extremes and dead branches up above. The tree does pose a **RISK** and therefore, I recommend tree removal.

4) Eastern White Pine (4 of 7) – back yard, closest to left rear corner of house

This pine has several issues. The first is that the tree was planted atop a 2 ½' retaining wall with approximately 3' of bed which does not leave much room to grow any anchoring roots. The back side has no exposed root flair, compromising the **CRZ**. Soil has eroded to the backside of tree and continues to do so. The tree has **CODOMINANT STEMS** that are prime for breaking off, like it's neighboring tree. One of the stems has it's own **CODOMINANT STEMS** which only compounds the **RISK** this tree may pose. Top heavy, weak rooted and close to the house make this a **RISK** tree that could deal a sever impact to house and property.

5) Eastern White Pine (5 thru 7) – back yard, along left rear perimeter

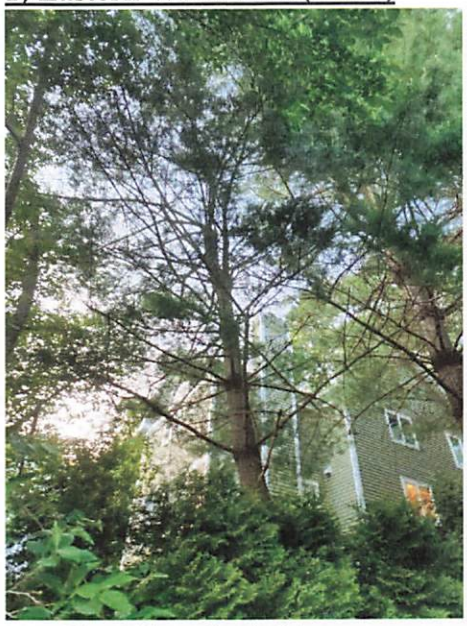
Theses pine have similar issues. These are the only pines in the group that has lateral branches with foliage. These trees have been maintained to keep their foliage intact, but this requires more maintenance and at a higher cost since these trees are a good 40'-50' tall. It's not easy trimming the tops compared to a tree with much less maintenance requirements. All tree are growing on ledge rock and a clay soil slope. The soil erosion has buried the back side of the trees affecting their **CRZ**. All trees have **CODOMINANT STEMS** and are a **RISK**. One is growing through a wire fence and rocks with constant contact with rocks will cause **DECAY** at its base and likely to fail. There are signs of cankers along the trunks, most likely caused by branches breaking off during storms and not healing correctly. These trees have served their objective long ago, but the **RISK** does not out way the benefits. It's time to reboot, so I recommend removal of these **RISK** trees. Any one of them that fails will surely damage the pool's vinyl liner, the house and whatever else may be beneath.

I have stated my reasons for the tree removals and all with valid points. I do not plant Eastern White Pines for this reason, they're only good for a few years before they become a 40-year problem of additional maintenance and lots of storm clean-ups. I would not remove a tree just because someone asked me to. I believe in green spaces, and I would do everything possible to remediate any issues with the trees, but in this case, it's better to remove and replace them with some other native species or a suitable evergreen screen with shrub border & perennials that would attract wildlife and benefit the environment. The trees have long outlived their purpose and towering over the house and make for sleepless nights during big storms.

Richard M. Ovalle

Arborist Letter to Village of Dobbs Ferry Supplement

1) Eastern White Pine (1 of 7)

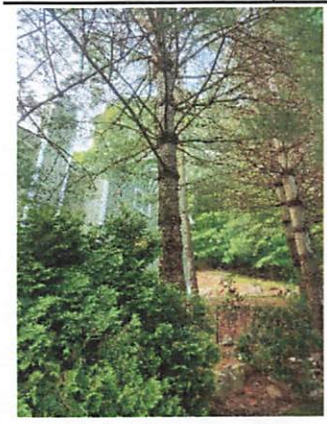


Pine with mechanical damage

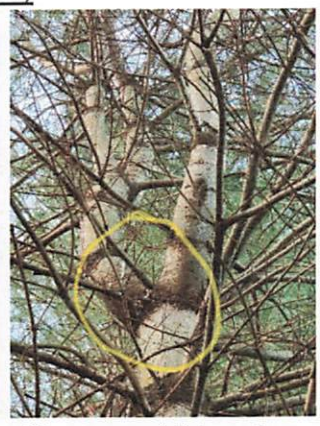
Close-up of recent damage

Exposed Critical Root Zone

Eastern White Pine (2 of 7)



Codominant stems



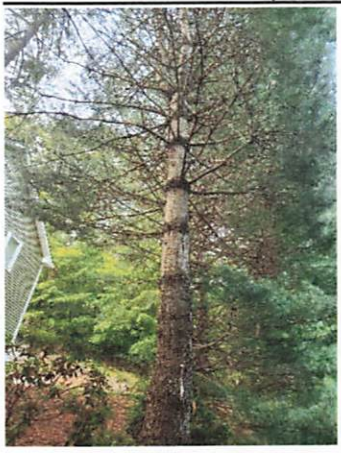
Close-up w visible cankers

Eastern White Pine (3 of 7)

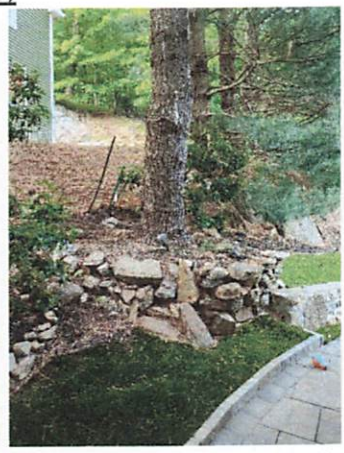
Not much left of this tree

Exposed roots and impeding rocks

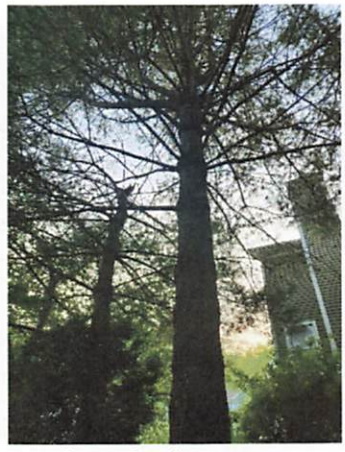
Eastern White Pine (4 of 7)



Cankers along trunk



Not much room for root growth

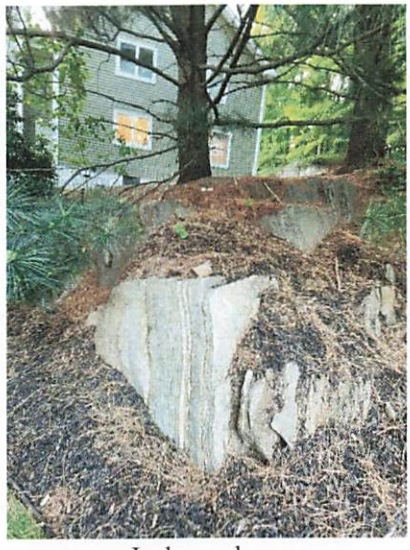


Five codominant stems

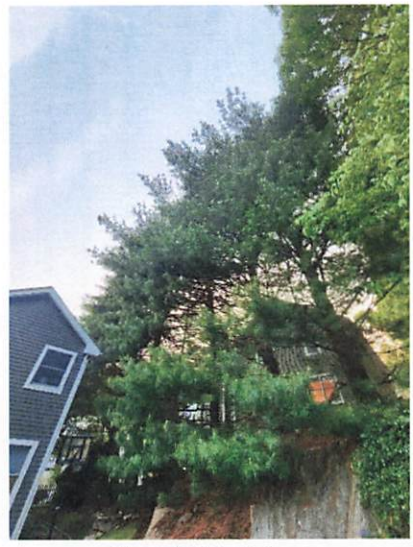
Towering over house

Eastern White Pine (5 thru 7)

Tree growing thru fence and rocks

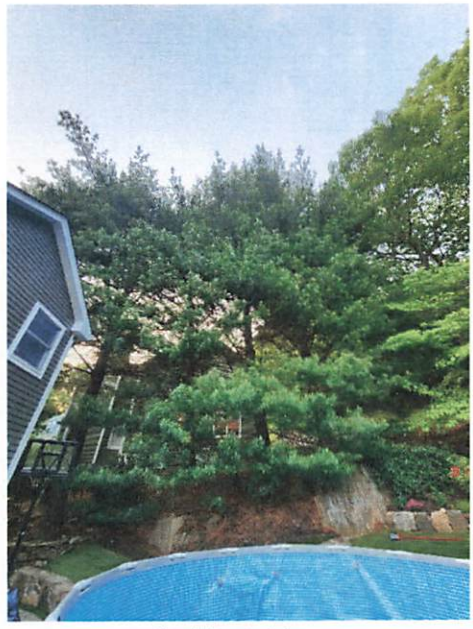


Ledge rock



More ledge rock

Soil build up over CRZ



Pool is at risk

George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

Westchester County

James Maisano
Director, Consumer Protection

Department of Consumer Protection
Home Improvement License

TIGRE TREE CARE AND LANDSCAPING INC.

134 MAIN STREET - #2

DOBBS FERRY,NY-10522

This license is issued in accordance with Article XVI of the Westchester County Consumer Protection Code and is valid only upon presence of the official department seal. Proof of citizenship or immigration status is not required for issuance of this license.
NOT FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES

Department of Consumer Protection Westchester County, NY

License Number

WC-25963-H13

Date of Expiration

05/21/2025