

**Back Bay Architectural Commission  
Tree Removal/Replacement  
393 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts**

The Dexter House Condo Association is applying to have a diseased magnolia tree in our front courtyard removed and replaced with a Royal White Eastern Redbud, which we hope will thrive in this setting.

The magnolia has been examined by Norm Helie and his report (attached) stated that it has a severe canker on the main stem which is more than one third of the diameter. His recommendation was that it be replaced based on the size and condition of the tree.

The Association has, for several years, had the tree treated with some form of deep root injections but it never really responded very well. Also the magnolia requires more light than it receives.

The landscaping work being done is minimal. The stones that are currently there will be removed and set aside. They will then be put back down when work is complete. Upon removal of the tree, the existing grade will be made as level as possible. Per Norm Helie's recommendation the grade change will be no more than two or three inches.

Currently the front fence is lined with planters. They will be removed and boxwoods will be placed in the two front corners. The replacement tree will be placed in the middle.

Boxwoods will also be placed in the other two existing beds.

The corner planter, which was damaged during snow removal from the roof will be replaced. We are currently considering an Emerald Arborvitae for that spot for height and would be surrounded by seasonal plantings.

The owners in our building consider our courtyard an extension of our homes and take pride in its care and upkeep. We have had wine and cheese parties, pizza

parties, bridal shower and one owner held an elegant dinner party there. It is so well used that in our plans for the area, we have increased the amount of seating.

As an Association we are very mindful of neighbors, the Back Bay community and the environment in our planning.

We have consulted with professional landscapers as well as the Garden Club both in dealing with the existing magnolia as well as a suitable replacement.

We are very thankful to the Back Bay Architectural Commission and its mission to preserve trees when possible, and if not, to replace them. Being surrounded by beautiful trees in a city setting is, indeed, very unique and special.

Kenneth E. Hamberg  
President and Treasurer for the  
Dexter House Condo Association

**From:** Normand Helie <thegrowingtree.normand@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Tree and site analysis for 393 Commonwealth Ave.  
**Date:** April 13, 2018 at 5:14 PM  
**To:** Debbie Hamberg <dhamberg@comcast.net>



The magnolia tree has a severe canker on the main stem. The canker is more than one third the diameter. Numerous smaller cankers exist on smaller branches. These cankers are caused by environmental conditions. The low light levels due to large street tree canopy limit sunlight to this sun loving species. Normal canker treatments involve pruning out such severe cankers. This pruning treatment would eliminate more than half the crown of this small tree. The size and the condition of the tree cost of removal and replacement is better than the treatment. In addition, chemical treatment would also be needed for 2 to 3 years. But, this doesn't change the environment and the long term problem.

Norm

On Apr 12, 2018, at 5:51 PM, Debbie Hamberg <dhamberg@comcast.net> wrote:

Hi Norm - I am sorry to have to contact you again you but I received a call from Laurie Thomas who is with the Garden Club. She said that more information is needed on the condition of the magnolia in our front yard and why you advised that it should be removed and replaced.

I need to get all required information to the BBAC by April 18, which is next Wednesday. In light of that, I would appreciate your getting back to me as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Many thanks and take care.  
Debbie Hamberg  
781-258-9127

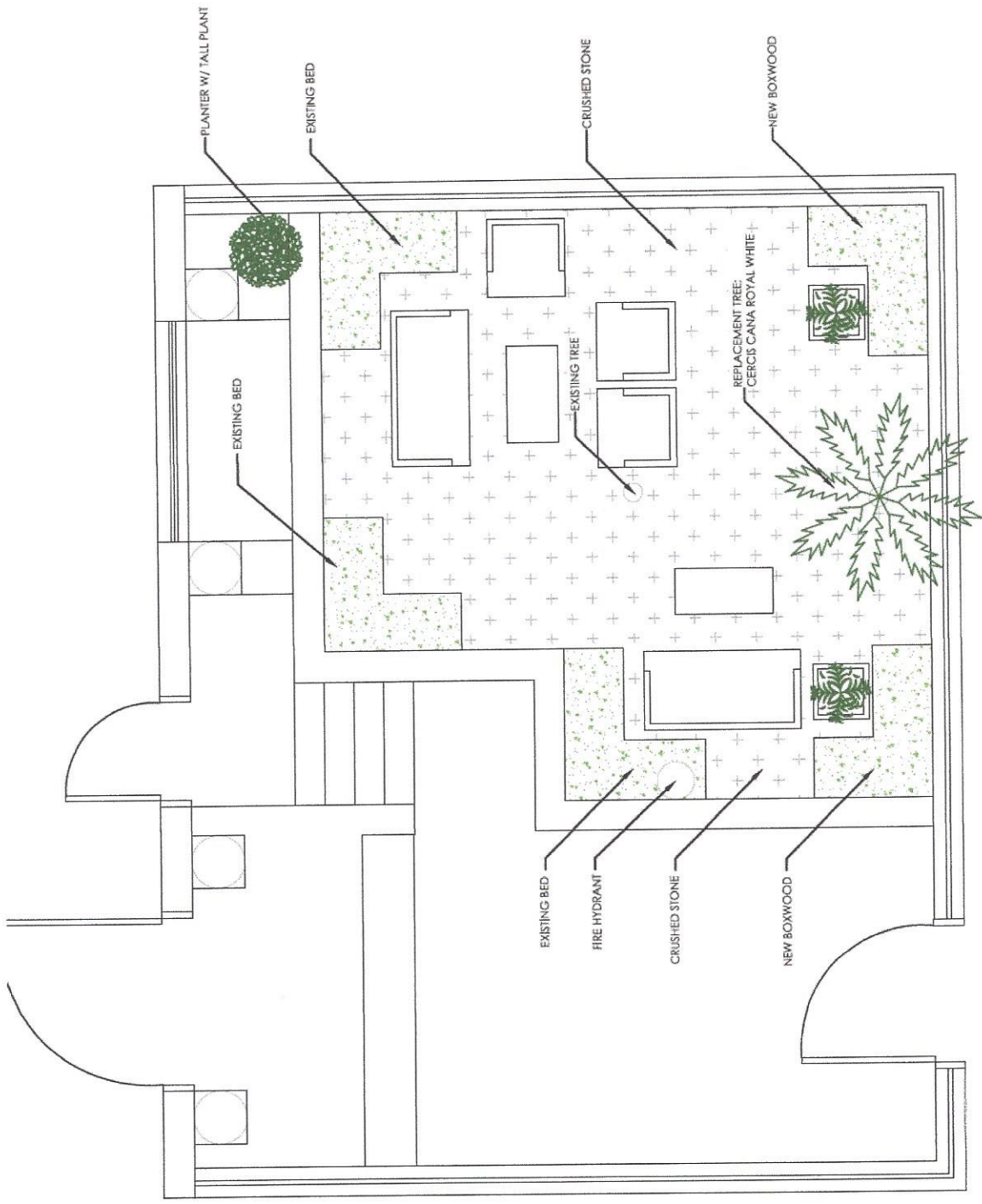
On Apr 6, 2018, at 4:37 PM, Normand Helie <thegrowingtree.normand@gmail.com> wrote:

The existing grade of the patio area can be adjusted to accommodate the a new garden design. The grade change should be no more than a two to three inch depth. The roots that need to be cut should be carefully excavated and cut in the same manner as a tree pruning operation.

The soil should be tested and amended as needed to accommodate future planting. Additional soil should meet existing soil textures and classifications.

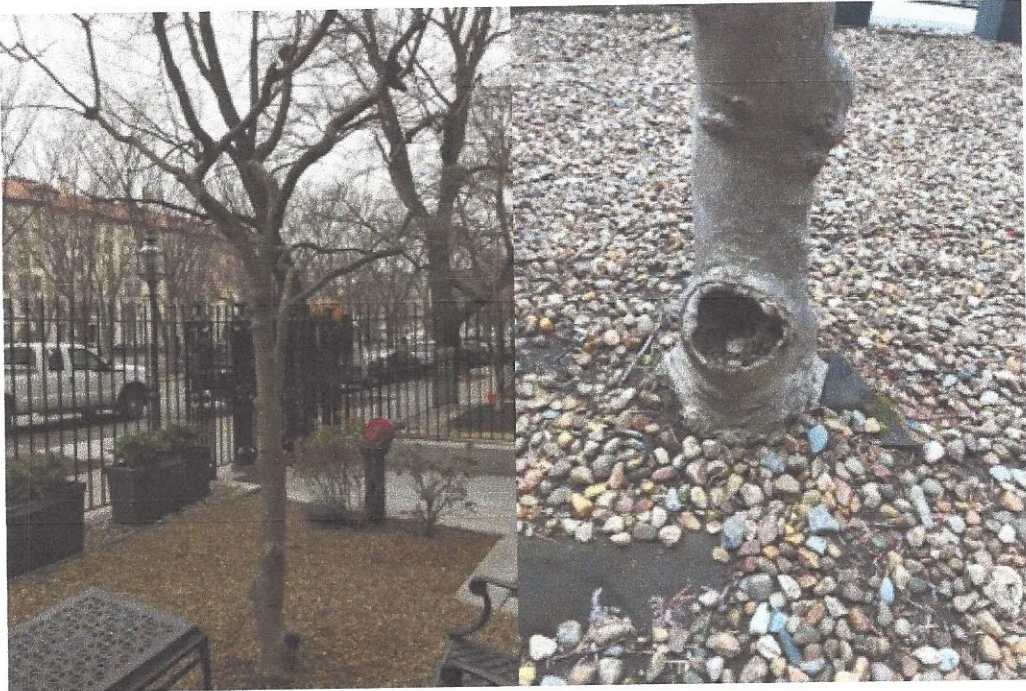
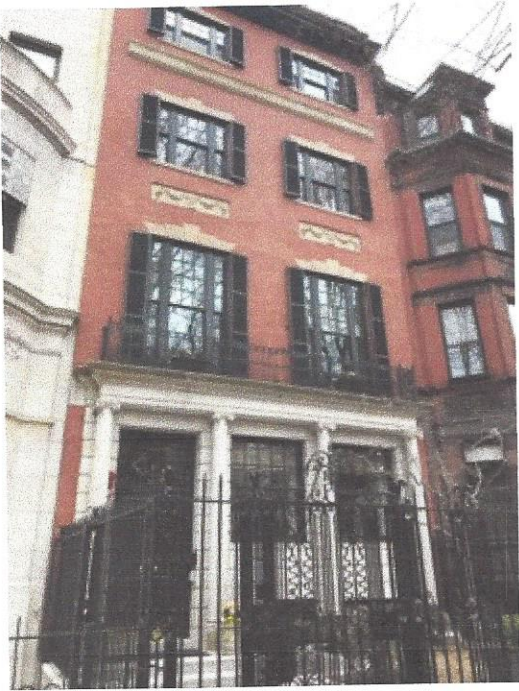
Based on tree species, size, condition, and the extent of the grade work it is advised to remove and replace this tree.

Norm Helie





From: **Debbie Hamberg** dhamberg@comcast.net  
Subject:  
Date: April 29, 2018 at 10:09 AM  
To: **Kenneth Hamberg** khamberg393@gmail.com



From: **Debbie Hamberg** dhamberg@comcast.net  
Subject:  
Date: April 29, 2018 at 11:02 AM  
To: **Kenneth Hamberg** khamberg393@gmail.com





From: **Debbie Hamberg** dhamberg@comcast.net  
Subject:  
Date: April 29, 2018 at 11:07 AM  
To: **Kenneth Hamberg** khamberg393@gmail.com

