

Nadia Khan

From: Mary Pope <popema236@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:04 PM
To: City Council; Nadia Khan; Michael Gleba
Subject: Fwd: 432 Dedham Street - Retaining Wall (Item #316-20)

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Just wanted to share this email prior to tonight's land use committee meeting.

Regards,
Mary Pope
450 Dedham Street (next door neighbor to 432)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mary Pope <popema236@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 12:06 PM
Subject: 432 Dedham Street - Retaining Wall
To: David Geffen <david@geffenc.com>

David,

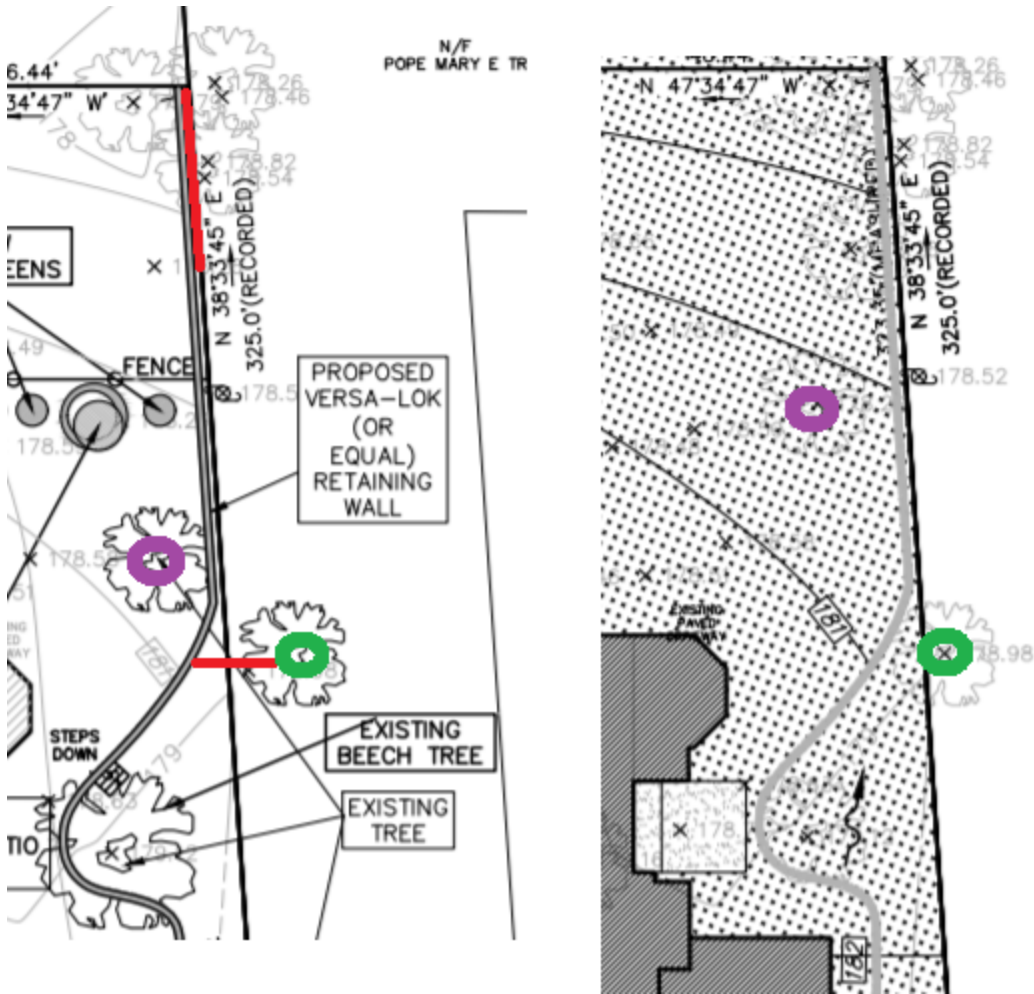
Thanks for the updated retaining wall plan. Definitely an improvement. After mulling it over a bit and doing a bit of online reading, I think it can be even better and hope you agree.

Here are some useful online links:

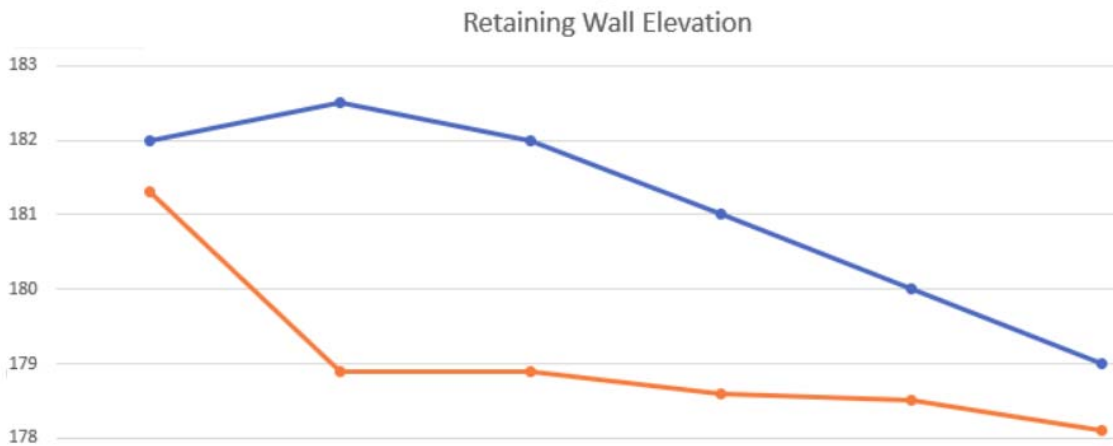
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/protecting-trees/>
<https://www.allanblockblog.com/2019/09/how-to-design-and-build-retaining-wall.html>

- As an advocate for all the trees I would recommend the retaining wall goes around the big trees on your property that you are intending to save. I fear that they will not do well with the trenching and fill as the links above suggest that the top six inches of roots are particularly significant to tree health. You could also create wells around them and take other mitigating actions instead. Neither of us are experts so I would suggest you consult an arborist about the suitability of your plans.
- As an advocate for my trees, I expect your plans should not damage the health of my trees. There are two big ones (8' and 5' 6" circumference measured above my head) at or near the property line and it would presumably be better to distance the retaining wall from them by more than one or two feet.

For reference here are two drawings from your plans. I included both because it shows the trees in different locations. The green circle is my 2 1/2 ft diameter oak. The purple circle is one of the large trees you are keeping.



Here's the elevation profile of current (orange line) and proposed (blue line). The fill levels range from 3 1/2 ft to 9 in.



Regards,
Mary