

October 14, 2016

RE: East Hill Church Tree Removal

Dear Urban Forestry Subcommittee,

This letter follows up on your request for my review of the decision to issue a permit for the removal of 22 Blue Atlas cedars from the parking lot of East Hill Church located in Downtown Gresham at 701 N. Main Ave.

The trees that were permitted to be removed on the East Hill Church property were determined to be Perimeter Trees and not Parking Lot Trees, which are defined as *approved as part of a parking lot plan*. Perimeter Trees are defined in the Development Code as “required” trees, which are explicitly not “regulated” trees. The process for Perimeter Tree removal is not clear in Section 9.1000 of the Tree Code. Similarly, there are no code sections stating that perimeter trees are to be reviewed by a Type I, Type II, or Type III permit or are exempt from a permit. The trees were not designated as “significant trees” or processed as “hazardous trees”.

It was decided that the most appropriate method for processing the request to remove the trees was through a Type I permit (rather than a Tree Removal Permit Exemption Form), as all other “required” tree removal permits are handled through the Type I process. Section 9.1036 (B) was the approval criteria used to grant this Type I tree removal permit in accordance with Section 9.1034(D)(7)(e) as the Non-Health reason to remove a required tree.

It should be noted that in this particular case, replacement of removed trees was required, which is not a specific requirement under Section 9.1037. The Type I permit required a minimum replacement of 12 trees in the same location.

Sincerely,



David Berniker
Planning Director
Urban Design & Planning

CC: Tina Osterink