

Kristen Crane

From: Joan Pierson <jpierson113@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Save the trees

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

I think a traffic light that saves all the trees is much preferred over a roundabout. Save the trees! Per time you do not want this area to end up looking like Folly Rd. Save every tree you can- look at the long range future vision of James Island. The trees make it a special place!

Joan Pierson

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: creeksedge1 <creeksedge1@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Camp rd

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Do not remove the grand oaks, a traffic light is by far cheaper and solves the problem.
Doug and Janet Patterson
Creeks Edge JI

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Kristen Crane

From: Lynn Shaddrix <drlynnji@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2022 10:03 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Cc: GrandOaksonJamesIsland@aol.com
Subject: Grand Oaks on James Island

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Please preserve our remaining grand oaks on James Island. That intersection just needs a stoplight. To proceed with this round-about will also take out the gates to Stone Post Road. How many historical items is the Town going to forfeit for "greed"!!!!!!!!!!!!

NO MORE OVER DEVELOPMENT for JAMES ISLAND! We don't have the infrastructure to support any more cars and trucks. Traffic is a nightmare!!

Lynn Shaddrix
839 Robert E. Lee Blvd.
Fort Johnson Estates

Kristen Crane

From: jenny welch <jerdone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Brook Lyon; Kristen Crane; Niki Grimball
Subject: Camp/Ft. Johnson Trees
Attachments: Camp Road Grand Trees Report 11-22.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear Chair Lyon and Town of James Island BZA members,

I am writing pertaining to CASE #BZAV-9-22-030

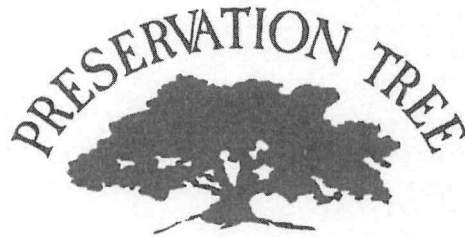
to ask you to please urge Charleston County to take more time to look at the possibility of adjusting the project plan for the Camp/Fort Johnson Rd intersection project to preserve two grand trees size 44' and 37.5' DBH on Camp Road.

I located and hired a master arborist Mr. Michael Murphy of "Preservation Tree" in Beaufort, SC to come to James Island and personally examine the two grand oaks at issue. His arborist report is attached.

May Mr. Murphy be allowed to give a short presentation at the BZA meeting on Nov. 15th? Is it possible for him to do this via Zoom or by phone since he resides in Beaufort? Mr. Murphy also has information relating to other projects where drainage was installed adjacent to grand oak trees that I feel the Board would be interested in hearing, along with detailed information from his examination of these trees.

Please know that my desire is to be a supporter of a safer intersection at Camp/Ft J Rd, but I also want to ensure that if there is any possible way to save healthy grand live oaks that we do so. I feel it is time for Charleston County and DOT to incorporate and protect our beloved oaks when they are designing new intersections. In this case particularly, since the oaks are not in the proposed roadway, I feel like it's essential that every step be taken to save the trees especially when there are numerous ways to work around them and still have good drainage and maintain the roundabout.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jenny Welch
1163 East and West Road
James Island, SC 29412



Michael P. Murphy,
NJ-0146B

November 11, 2022

Ms. Jenny Welch
1163 East and West Road
James Island, SC 29412

Re: Camp Road Grand Trees

Dear Ms. Welch,

Thank you for contacting me about the 44 & 37.5-inch live oaks proposed to be removed for the projected Charleston County round-a-bout project at the Fort Johnson and Camp Road intersection. Being a board-certified master arborist, one of only 7 in the State of SC, I feel capable of supplying you with some valuable tree data.

I was able to visit the site and inspect the trees on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and following is my report. Before driving down, I did a bit of homework and was able to review a graded spreadsheet of species and conditions for 26 trees adjacent to this project. On an A-B-C-D scale these two trees were graded as "C", in Fair Condition, both with vines and the larger tree with a hollow base. The grading language in use here is vague. Using words like Good & Fair are not in line with currently standard descriptors that can accurately relay a tree's physical and structural health. The language used in this spreadsheet is not concurrent with the language used in Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) based reports. These two trees will be assessed later in the report using International Society of Arboriculture backed assessment language and matrix qualitative criteria. This approach is a recognized and respected method of risk assessment used internationally by many governments and businesses.

I was also able to view the BZA Zoom Meeting from October 18th where this project was discussed. By watching that, I was able to hear a description of the physical and structural condition of the two trees from the statement given by the landscape architect associated with the project for the Applicant who discussed the arborist's gradings and the trees' conditions.

From these proceedings I learned that tree health was one of the five major criteria points that the design and development teams took into consideration in the makeup of this project. I also heard more about how these two trees accrued their Condition Grade:

- They were generously graded a "C" rating by the arborist.
- One has a hollow center (44-inch tree).
- They are full of vine.
- Their canopies are very bad.
- They were never really taken care of, trimmed or pruned over the years.
- They are very close to the road.
- They are scarred and damaged and not very good trees overall.

After taking this all in I was a bit skeptical about my site visit. There was a good chance that I would be traveling down only to see all of this condemning data had been compiled by another arborist.

When I arrived at the site and saw the trees, it seemed as if I were viewing two totally different trees than the ones described by the landscape architect. I can see a point, that if you just drove by these trees, you would not be able to take in the true quality of their canopies and stems. Most of what you would notice was the amount of vine in the area. You would need to stand under these trees and view their canopies from that focal point as well as from across the street, in order to appreciate the full features of their canopy quality and health.

Here is what I observed:

- Both trees have compact canopies relative to their diameter with no dead ends or dieback present in their crowns.
- Leaf color and leaf size is normal as is woundwood formation.
- This compact canopy is partially due to the upper limb reduction that has taken place because of proximity to energized lines crossing the street.

- There is a minimal amount of deadwood relative to the size and age of the trees considering the fact that they have only ever been utility-pruned.
- There is no hollow cavity present in the 44-inch tree as stated. What is present is a bark scar from a probable auto strike which most likely occurred approximately 15 to 20 years ago. The woundwood closure on this scar is progressing nicely and the tree heartwood where a hollow cavity may be expected to occur on some other tree species is solid.
- There is no evidence of any rootplate issues.
- The trees ARE full of vine.



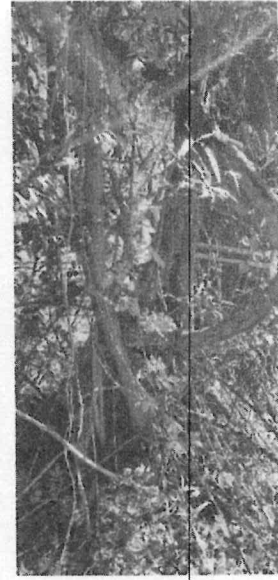
I



II



III



IV

I & II) Compact crowns with no dieback. Proper crown reduction from utility lines.

III) Healthy woundwood closure from past properly made pruning cut.

IV) Vines, vines, vines!

In contrast to the assessment language used in the project's spreadsheet, my assessment of these two trees will be created around the following matrix which is based on a modified Level II tree risk assessment using language based on TRAQ.

- A.) Trees with slight defects having an improbable likelihood of failure.
- B.) Trees with moderate defects having a possible likelihood of failure.
- C.) Trees with severe defects having a probable likelihood of failure.
- D.) Trees with critical defects having an imminent likelihood of failure.

I have assessed these two trees as "B". If tree pruning is performed by a certified arborist using the Natural Pruning System and the vine, deadwood and larger clumps of Spanish moss is removed from the crown these two trees would be upgraded to an "A". These trees are far from "fair" and well worth another look by the applicants as to their preservation.

As a board-certified master arborist, I cannot speak to any alternative plans as there are ROW, realignment and drainage considerations to bear in mind. But having past experienced successful consulting on directionally bored five-foot diameter drainage conduit underneath established live oaks root system with no adverse effects on the trees I know that there are options that can be taken in order to see no viable Grand tree removed.

The Town of James Island has been copied here in order to allow them notice that I am willing to comment on these finds and answer any questions in the meeting on November 15, 2022. I can do so by Zoom or by phone as I live in Beaufort.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael P. Murphy
Board Certified Master Arborist, NJ-0146B

Cc: Kristen Crane, Director of Planning, Town of James Island
Mrs. Brook Lyon, Chairperson, Town of James Island BZA

Kristen Crane

From: rod@hotelguides.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 1:19 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: FW: Two Grand Oaks on Camp Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hi, Kristen,

Please forward this email to the other BZA members.

Thanks,
Rod

-----Original Message-----

From: rod@hotelguides.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 1:14am
To: lyongusts@aol.com, kcrane@jamesislandsc.us
Subject: Two Grand Oaks on Camp Road

To the Town of James Island's Board of Zoning Appeals:

Please do not approve Charleston County's application for a variance to cut down the two Camp Road grand oaks circled with red tape near the intersection of Camp and Fort Johnson Roads.

Instead ask the county to seek a variance from SCDOT's stormwater drainage criteria so the proposed roundabout can be built without destroying these two grand oaks. (They are a lot older and grander than any of us.)

There are other ways to build this roundabout without destroying these two trees -- and if they were located in a richer neighborhood, I suspect alternatives would be identified and approved quickly.

If these grand oaks were to be cut down, it would be "a substantial detriment to the public good," and the character of the Town of James Island would be harmed.

One of the main reasons we formed the Town of James Island was to protect our natural environment from the City of Charleston. Now we have the means to protect our environment. If we don't, then shame on us.

Instead of destroying these trees, we should prune them and remove the vines from them so their rating can improve from B to A. I would be willing to pay the cost of this tree work as a gift to the Town and the oaks' neighborhood.

Rod Welch

1362 Stone Post Road

Kristen Crane

From: Ross, Lisa T <RossL@cofc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:44 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: why can't these trees be saved?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

To: Kristen Crane and Brook Lyon

Greetings,

Residents of James Island are keenly aware of the traffic problems at the intersection of Camp and Fort Johnson Roads. We desperately need a light or roundabout there. Because everyone seems to have adapted to the roundabout at the intersection of Harborview and Fort Johnson, I think the roundabout is the way to go and am pleased to hear plans for it are underway.

It is my understanding that a message is circulating in the community that two grand oak trees nearby must be sacrificed to build the roundabout, and that saving these trees and constructing the roundabout cannot *both* happen. It is also my understanding that this is not necessarily true.

I urge Charleston County to investigate the possibility of BOTH happening.

- *Are the trees REALLY in the way of the roundabout?*
- *Or are they in the way of the storm drains?*
- *And why can't the storm drain locations be shifted slightly to keep the trees alive?*

The trees themselves help with flooding (which is the motivation for the storm drains) and they have other ecological benefits as well like improving air quality.

Please look into this matter further before chopping down historic trees.

Thank you,
Lisa Ross
Resident
830 Piccadilly Circle

Kristen Crane

From: Mandy Coleman <mandy@chsrestaurantproperties.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Camp Road roundabout- Oak Trees BZA feedback

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good Morning,
Please forward my comments below to the other members of the BZA:

I cannot be present tonight but want to express my concern over removal of two grand oak trees as part of the new roundabout proposal. I believe there are other options left to be explored before considering the removal of the trees as the only way forward.

I would ask the board consider moving forward with the roundabout while putting the approval for the variance to remove those trees on hold while other solutions are considered. If those trees are lost it drastically effects the historic character of the grand oak canopy that lines ft Ruthie. The character of the zoning district will be harmed.

With the approval to remove these trees for the roundabout it also sets a dangerous precedent for future road improvements and taking to easy way of removing these historic trees instead of considering alternatives.

Thank you.
Mandy Coleman
828 Joey Circle
Charleston, SC 29412
8439067927

Kristen Crane

From: mo mm <maurmatt4@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:47 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: CASE #BZAV-9-22-030 - Save the grand oaks.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good morning Ms. Kristen,

Please SAVE the two, approximately 150 year old grand live oaks on James Island. We also support a roundabout at Camp/Ft Johnson Road. Both can be accomplished.

Thank you,
Maureen Matthews
2002 Needlegrass Ln
Charleston (James Island) 29412
843-343-3001

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Best regards, Maureen

Kristen Crane

From: Dan Stewart <danstewart315@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:09 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Fort Johnson Rd / Stone Post Rd Roundabout

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Ms. Crane:

This email is to voice my concern, as a James Island resident, over the proposed removal of two grand oaks in the construction of yet another roundabout along Ft. Johnson Rd. It is my understanding that the project can be modified so that these trees may be saved. Please do NOT allow this project to destroy more of James Island's natural history.

Sincerely,

Daniel Stewart

919 Paul Revere Dr.

James Island

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Sam Evans <scranner94@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Cc: Brook Lyon
Subject: Save the Grand Oaks - Camp/Fort Johnson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good Morning,

It has come to my attention that there is consideration to remove two 150-year old grand oak trees, with B-grades, to make way for a roundabout at the intersection of Camp and Fort Johnson.

While I do believe a roundabout may be warranted to create a safer intersection, we need to move forward in a way that preserves the grand oaks.

Please consider revising the development plans in a way that will save these trees from being uprooted. It may take extra time and planning, but it is greatly important to our community. Grand oak trees should not be sacrificed because of our overdevelopment on the island.

We can move forward with a roundabout while simultaneously saving the trees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Sam Evans
1402 Camp Road

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Melanie Lovell <melanielovell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Camp Road/Ft. Johnson/Stone Post roundabout (live oaks)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good morning Ms. Crane and Ms. Lyon,

I'm writing to you as a James Island homeowner and taxpayer, requesting that you deny the county's application for a variance to remove the live oaks located within the intended area of the Camp Road/Ft. Johnson/Stone Post roundabout.

Live oak trees have been immortalized as the classic symbol of the South; they add shade, beauty, and character to our community. These trees can survive for centuries while providing shelter and food for so many animals. They benefit humans as well by storing carbon emissions, protecting our water supply, and creating oxygen for us to breathe. Yet we are losing them at an alarming rate.

These trees - which, with some minimal TLC, could become robust specimens - **are an integral part of this district's character and should be protected**. Cutting down these trees will substantially alter this area to the detriment of the public good.

I urge you to consider the idea that saving these trees and building a rotary do not need to be mutually exclusive. Our community needs a variance from SCDOT so that a creative solution can be found to build the roundabout AND save the trees.

Please consider an alternative to destroying these beautiful trees.

Thank you,

Melanie Lovell
1168 Wyndham Road

Kristen Crane

From: Merri Read <FatherofLights7@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:45 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: 2 giant live oaks.

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I am requesting that the two live oaks be saved and a round about or 4 way stop be used if it stops the removal of these trees. Seriously, in this day of climate change and habitat loss I find it hard to believe that anyone would allow this! If planned removal proceeds it will be an uncorrectable and tragic loss. Sincerely, Merri Read at The Retreat, 1025 Riverland Woods Place #524 Charleston, SC 29514 Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Bender Jennifer <jenbender@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:34 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Oaks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

I am writing to express my wish that the two Live Oaks at the intersection of Camp and Ft Johnson be saved. There must be a way to put the roundabout there AND save those trees at the same time. I live in the old Orchard neighborhood and use this intersection multiple times a day. And... I love Live Oaks. Please save them.

Jen 763.742.4042
Rembert Rd

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: sheena janse <jansesheena@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 5:33 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Case BZAV 9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear Ms. Crane,

As a long time resident and tax payer of James Island, I respectfully request the zoning board save the Grand Oaks at the proposed round about at Camp and Ft. Johnson.

Preserving the beauty, charm and ecological well being of our island MUST be carefully considered and prioritized in all road improvement and development projects to maintain the beauty and quality of life that has drawn so many to our island.

Respectfully,
Sheena Janse
936 Reddick Street
843-735-4726

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Kristen Crane
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: RE: Oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson

From: Alison Price <alisoncprice@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:43 AM
To: Kristen Crane <kcrane@jamesislandsc.us>; savejamesisland@gmail.com
Subject: Oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson

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Hello Mrs. Crane,
Please forward my concerns about taking down any grand oaks during the installation of the planned roundabout. BOTH can be accomplished at the same time. We can have the roundabout (much needed) AND preserve these grand oaks. Please forward my comments to the BZA.

Alison Price
20 year JI Homeowner
860 stiles dr

Kristen Crane

From: Kristen Crane
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: RE: CASE #BZAV-9-22-030---Camp Road Grand Trees.

From: stacie darr <staciedarr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 4:51 PM
To: Kristen Crane <kcrane@jamesislandsc.us>
Subject: CASE #BZAV-9-22-030---Camp Road Grand Trees.

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Hi Kristen!

Please help to save the grand oaks at Camp Rd and Ft Johnson Rd. Please have the county engineers maintain a plan to trim and provide long term care for these beautiful trees!

thank you
Stacie
1820 Fleming Woods Road
Charleston SC 29412

We live off Riverland. My son attends Stiles Point Elementary and we drive on Ft Johnson Rd daily.

Stacie Darr
843-494-2543

Kristen Crane

From: Kristen Crane
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: RE: Oaks at Camp Rd and Ft Johnson Rd

> -----Original Message-----

> From: oakpointjan <oakpointjan@aol.com>

> Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 3:51 PM

> To: Kristen Crane <kcrane@jamesislandsc.us>

> Subject: Oaks at Camp Rd and Ft Johnson Rd

>

> CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

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> Save our trees and save James Island!

> Jenny Welch couldn't have said it better!!!

> If you don't like our trees and our awesome history why would you move to James Island?

> Jeanne and Croskeys Welch

1746 Oak Point Rd

James Island SC

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Kristen Crane
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: RE: CASE #BZAV-9-22-030 #saveouroaks

From: glendakbrown@mac.com <glendakbrown@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 10:51 PM
To: Kristen Crane <kcrane@jamesislandsc.us>
Subject: CASE #BZAV-9-22-030 #saveouroaks

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Dear Ms. Crane,

I hope this email finds you well after a relaxing weekend and I thank you for your service to James Island!

I'm writing to ask that the beautiful healthy oak trees connected to the Camp Road/Ft Johnson Road county improvement project and compact roundabout be saved. As a resident of James Island, I am extremely concerned that these trees and others be saved.

James Island is part of Charleston which is touted as the number one city in the world to visit year after year. We are also facing tremendous, environmental challenges, as you well know. I do not think that James Island wants to be known as the city that cuts down beautiful trees unnecessarily. But with this next chop - that's where we are headed.

When I as a homeowner with limited financial assets spend money to save my trees - even the ones that provide me no beauty or shade since I cannot see them - but because I know how important they are environmentally... It makes me very concerned that the city would literally remove these trees unnecessarily.

Yes to the round about! But absolutely no to removing these trees. Have the engineers and others this project find a way to keep those trees while accomplishing the goals of the roundabout. It's quite doable.

if I wanted to cut a healthy huge Live Oak down in my yard, I would not be allowed to do so, thankfully. But yet there is abundant hypocrisy at work here.

I am asking that these two oaks simply be saved and integrated into the project, maintained and pruned appropriately and that this entire line of trees be beautified along with the sweeping grand lives oaks closer to the intersection.

Please - amplify the beauty of the Camp Road oak allee!

Ms. Crane -I again thank you for your service to the community and town and ask that you forward my email to the BZA immediately.

I support the compact roundabout at the intersection but please save these stunning, important and valuable trees.

Best regards

Glenda K Brown

James Island resident

Good morning and I apologize. My address is 1558 Battery Island Dr Charleston, SC 29412. Many thanks.

Kristen Crane

From: Dan Boles <Dan@boleslawfirmllc.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Camp Road roundabout

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good morning!

Plz pass along to the BZA that I live at 1016 Foxcroft Road and oppose the plan to remove the 2 trees.

I believe there is an alternative that allows the traffic circle to go forward and does not require these trees to come down.

the peninsula has Rainbow Row, James Island has its natural beauty.

I plan to attend the meeting Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Boles
3870 Leeds Avenue, Ste. 104, 29405
248 E Washington St., 29488
101 McGee Street., 29601
843.576.5775 ext. 0
800.878.5443 f
www.boleslawfirmllc.com

Kristen Crane

From: Valerie Simson <valeriesimson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Public Comments: Case #BZAV-9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear Ms. Crane,

I'm writing in regards to Case #BZAV-9-22-030. I strongly urge the BZA to preserve the two grand live oaks that are up for removal on Camp Road, and additionally, urge the BZA to request from the Town of James Island an independent master arborist report before a final decision is reached.

Based on the arborist report provided in the meeting agenda, there are 15 live oaks in the potential project area. Excluding the two trees that are up for removal, three other trees are listed as being in similar or worse conditions. If these trees can be preserved, then I wonder to what degree the two trees in question actually pose a safety issue but are merely in the path of a future drainage pipe. Additionally, I would like to know to what extent the Town of James Island and ESP Associates, Inc. have explored alternate drainage options.

Furthermore, Mayor Bill Woolsey's comments on social media, including but not limited to Facebook and Nextdoor.com, imply he is partial to one option: *"The options are a roundabout or leaving the intersection in its current unsafe condition."* As a resident of the Stone Post neighborhood, and someone who is affected by traffic at Fort Johnson and Camp, I am all for a safer intersection. But I'm also a proponent of preserving our beautiful live oaks based on scientific study rather than politics and personal agendas.

I ask that you please pass these comments to the BZA for consideration, and appreciate your time.

Thank you,

Valerie Simson
1204 Cecil Circle
Charleston, SC 29412
(707) 484-3519

Kristen Crane

From: Kimberly Perry <kimberlynperry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Camp Rd/Ft Johnson/Stone Post Roundabout

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good morning,

I am writing to ask that you deny the county's application for a variance to remove two grand trees in the creation of a roundabout at Camp Rd/Ft Johnson/Stone Post. Please look into saving these trees AND building the roundabout for safety at the intersection.

As you well know, these trees have survived hurricanes, storms and still stand. They are part of an historic live oak allee down Camp Road in an historic area of James Island, and these grand trees provide an important ecological function while helping with flooding.

If these grand trees are cut down, it will be a substantial detriment to the public good and the character of the zoning district will be harmed. We are losing too many trees (let alone grand trees) on this island due to development, please let's not lose trees where it is not necessary.

Please pass my request on to the other members of the BZA.

Thank you,
Kimberly Perry
415 Woodland Shores Rd

Kristen Crane

From: Andy Borgman <andrewborgman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Please do a little extra to save the trees in the Camp Road/Ft. Johnson/Stone Post roundabout plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hi Kristen and Brook.

I have worked with Kristen on various things before and have always valued her feedback and input, but this is my first note to you Brook.

I ask you both for your help denying the variance to remove the two grand trees in the Camp Road/Ft. Johnson/Stone Post roundabout plan.

Looking at the plan, it would only take a little modification of the plan (drainage primarily, if I understand properly) to save these trees AND get the much-needed roundabout installed properly.

Cutting these trees will be a detriment to the character of that street, and thus that zoning district. Just driving down that one stretch, it's so beautiful with those large grand trees. We need to do a little extra work to save them for the good of the public and character of this island.

We CAN save those trees and have the roundabout - please deny that variance and let's figure out a way.

Thanks - Andy Borgman
1206 Gunpowder Ct (about 1 block from the affected trees)

--andy

Kristen Crane

From: MB Berry <mbberry1996@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Those trees on Ft. Johnson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Morning, Kristen. I hope everything is going well for you. Haven't seen you in too long.

"The accuracy of facts concerning the need to remove these trees is not clear. If they do not stand in the way of the construction, but only in the way of drainage features, it seems reasonable that an alternative to their removal could be found. There are also conflicting facts concerning the health of the trees. In my opinion, if they can be saved, they should be saved.

I ask that further research be undertaken to make sure that the best decision is made, rather than the hastiest. We've been living with that intersection for a long time. Perhaps it would be wise to spend just a bit more time to ensure the best and most well-informed action be taken."

Please forward the text in quotes to the members of the BZA.

Thanks very much,

MB Berry
1154 Julian Clark Road
James Island SC 29412

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, the stability, and beauty of the community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." — Aldo Leopold

Kristen Crane

From: Susan Milliken <sbmilliken@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Cc: Brook Lyon
Subject: Camp Road Grand Live Oak Trees
Attachments: Grand Oak 1 Camp Road.jpg; Grand Oak 2 Camp Road.jpg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear Ms.Crane,

Please forward my comments to the members of the BZA pertaining to:

1. CASE #BZAV-9-22-030

Variance request for the removal of two grand trees (44" DBH Live Oak and 37.5" DBH Live Oak) in the Right-of-Way of Camp Road (1182 Fort Johnson Road) for intersection improvements at Camp Road and Fort Johnson Road.

Dear Chair Lyon and members of the BZA,

Please consider either voting for a continuance for more study of Case #BZAV-9-22-030-Camp Road grand oak trees or please vote for a Denial of this application for a variance to remove (2) grand live oak trees on Camp Road.

It is my understanding that these trees are not in the actual roadbed of the project area but would be impacted by the drainage element of the County's intersection project. Further, it is my understanding that a nearby resident has obtained an independent master arborist report that rates these (2) grand live oaks trees as "B" rated and in good condition, without rot or a "hollow base".

If the BZA votes for a continuance, that will give the County, the Town and others the opportunity to look into how to possibly save these historic oaks and ultimately remove the vines, prune them, treat them and give them the care they need to remain healthy. We are hopeful that the project plan can be revisited regarding the drainage element.

If the BZA wishes to conclude this case on Nov. 15th, I urge you to vote for Denial of the County's variance request to remove the grand trees. That action would require the County to re-evaluate the drainage element of the project plan, not cancel the intersection improvement.

This application does not meet the following criteria (emphasis added in yellow):

***(D) The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance**

It will be a substantial detriment to the public good and the character of the zoning district to cut down two historic grand live oaks, some 150+ years old and rated in Good health, to install drainage for a nearby intersection improvement plan.

(G) Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

Granting the variance to cut down two historic grand live oaks in Good health will certainly substantially conflict with the Town of James Island's Comprehensive Plan. Please see details below:

Town of James Island's Comprehensive Plan (2021):

1. Natural Resources Element: Recognizes the diverse natural features in the Town and includes strategies to preserve and protect them. (p. 3)

Land Use Element Needs

Land Use element needs include, but are not limited to the following:

- Preserving the suburban character of the area;
- Preserving the natural, multi-cultural, historic, and aesthetic integrity of the Town; and
- Encouraging sensitive and sustainable development practices. (p. 10)
- **Natural Resources Element Goal**
Protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment by promoting biodiversity and preserving and improving ecosystems. (p.18)
- Comprehensive Plan at: <https://www.jamesislandsc.us/Data/Sites/1/media/zldr/toji-comprehensive-plan-final-2021.pdf>
-
-
- **James Islanders desire safer roads and intersections AND the preservation of our natural resources that make our island so unique and beautiful.** These grand oak trees serve a critical ecological purpose--providing us oxygen to breathe, cleaning air of pollutants and Co2; their massive root systems manage stormwaters, their canopies provide habitats for wildlife and birds. Further, these trees add to the value of properties on James Island and give James Island its iconic sea island ambience and charm. No newly planted trees can do the environmental "job" these grand oaks do now. **We are hopeful that the roundabout at the intersection CAN be installed with these two B rated grand oak trees saved. It makes sense for the County to have more time to look into this and for stakeholders to meet to discuss. (Note: We would never want to save dying trees in poor health. That is not the case with these two grand live oaks.)**

I urge each member of the BZA to go over to the site, park and personally inspect these two trees. They cannot be seen well by simply driving by. They are majestic, have weathered hundreds of storms and many hurricanes and should be protected, preserved and treated with care. We see that under the vines, these trees are special and irreplaceable. We desire safer roads and intersections and to preserve our special trees. Please continue this hearing for more information or Deny the variance request.

*Pictures of the grand oaks are attached.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our island.

Very truly yours
Susan Milliken
762 Fort Sumter Dr.
James Island, SC

Kristen Crane

From: Troy Mullinax <darrentroymullinax@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Comment regarding proposed roundabout at Camp and Fort Johnson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Kristen,

I would like to take this opportunity to record my opposition to the proposed roundabout at Camp and Fort Johnson roads. I am making these comments this way in that I will be unable to attend Tuesday's meeting. I will be at work during this time.

My opposition to allowing this project to move forward at this time is twofold. First, I am concerned that the removal of the two trees in question, each over 150 years old, may be unnecessary. First of all, these trees are attractive and add much to the appearance to the approach of the intersection. Furthermore, I am concerned that the removal of these trees could contribute to possible enhanced flooding in the area. The roots of trees such as these serve the essential purpose of soaking up excess water from sudden downpours and other flooding events. I do understand that there are drainage projects planned for this area, but it is my contention that these trees would provide a good, natural supplement to these proposed projects.

My second concern is that I do have substantial concerns over the relocation of the historic stone posts gate at the entrance of the Stonepost community. These stoneposts were erected in 1926 before the neighborhood itself was imagined. I understand that some of this structure is not original, but a substantial portion of it is. It also concerns me that some parts of the structure may not be able to be relocated due to restraints of space. These stone posts have become an important signature of this community and all efforts should be made to prevent their alteration.

I would like to be clear that I do not oppose the roundabout itself. I agree that they do enhance safety. This is a proven fact. My desire is that this decision will be placed on hiatus until the county can find a way to complete this project without either requiring the removal of the two grand trees or the relocation of the historic stone post.

It is also my contention that, from the very beginning, this was a decision that Town elected officials should have had the opportunity to contribute to. This is due to how many residents of the Town that this decision will ultimately affect. I feel that a final decision reached exclusively by an unelected body such as the Board of Zoning and Appeals is counterproductive in securing community goodwill and ultimate support.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my concerns regarding this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Darren Troy Mullinax
Member
James Island Town Council

Kristen Crane

From: Susan Lautenschlaeger <susan700@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: CASE #: BSAV-9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Ms. Crane,

I am sending this email as a plea to save the 150 year old oaks. They should be considered a treasure and be allowed to thrive for at least another 150 years. I am sure there can be a way to build "around" them. I live in a neighborhood off of Camp Road. Years ago, my daughter had a rather scary accident at the intersection of Camp Road and Fort Johnson Road. I know several of us support a roundabout at that intersection.

Thank you for your time,
Susan Lautenschlaeger
13 Harrill Court
29412

Kristen Crane

From: Paul S Cantrell <pcantrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: BZA Case BZAV-9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good morning and thank you for accepting BZA comments.

I ask that the BZA deny this request to remove the two grand oak trees on Camp Road within the Town of James Island right of way (ROW,) because the project can be completed without removal.

I do not think it is necessary to remove these trees to complete the roundabout project at Camp and Fort Johnson. The town also must take better care of their trees within the ROW, but these trees can remain healthy for decades to come.

These two trees are not within the proposed roadway. They are within the ROW.

The county is asking to remove them solely for new stormwater drainage pipes.

Other projects have used boring (HDD - Horizontal Directional Drilling) technology to put pipes like this under trees at a depth where it does not cause root damage nor sinkhole issues.

We've all seen AT&T and other utilities use horizontal drilling to install conduit on James Island.

In fact, the SC DOT has an entire document entitled, "UTILITY ACCOMMODATION CONTROLS AND STANDARDS" linked here:

https://www.scdot.org/.../SCDOT_Utility_Accommodations...

Chapter 6-6 beginning on page 120 of the pdf is pertinent to HDD.

Also of note is chapter 6-10 SCENIC ENHANCEMENT:

"New underground utility installations may be permitted within such lands where they do not require extensive removal or alteration of trees or other natural features visible to the highway user or if they do not impair the visual quality of the lands being traversed."

In summary, this is not a question of safety OR trees and the character of James Island.

It is that we can have both by using established trenchless construction methods and reasonable cost.

I believe if we can put a 24 inch water main under the Stono River AND grand oak trees with HDD in 2008, then 75-80 feet of stormwater piping should be very feasible.

<https://www.waterworld.com/home/article/16189746/project-features-record-hdd-pull-of-24-fused-pvc-pipe>

Another reference is a study performed by the Virginia DOT on trenchless installation and HDD:

https://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/15-r16.pdf

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Paul S Cantrell

East and West Rd, Town of James Island

He's the kind of a guy who lights up a room just by flicking a switch

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§ Please consider the environment before printing this email

Kristen Crane

From: Emily McDaniel Barrett <esmchas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 2:31 PM
To: Brook Lyon; Kristen Crane
Subject: BZA Case # 9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to ask that the County go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that saves the 2 beautiful grand oaks at the Camp/Fort Johnson intersection. Please deny (or at least postpone) the variance request for removal until more solutions can be considered to save both of the trees without impacting the roundabout. Our trees are one of the things that make James Island so special. The Town of James Island obviously agrees as one is incorporated into its logo. I appreciate this opportunity to weigh in. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,
Emily McDaniel Barrett
James Island resident since birth
307 Yates Avenue

Kristen Crane

From: bostoncaligurl <bostoncalinurse@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Opposing the tear down of 2 live oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Ms Crane-

I am writing to oppose the tree removal of the 150 year old Live Oaks located at Camp Rd., and Fort Johnson. While I believe that safety is paramount to our community, so is preservation and it is what James Island has always prided themselves on. There's been a number of tree removals recently, in excess, and done without regards to the consequences.

One of the main reasons I moved to this community was it's stance on preserving some of the trees in the area, knowing their history and significance. Another reason was their stance on preventing over development. I have been disappointed in the last year or two, with unnecessary businesses being put in a community where it is not really needed. Combine the cutting down of trees with the overdevelopment of townhomes being planned for the Harbor view and connector area, I have seen this play out before in other areas of the country and it does NOT end well. I feel the need to forewarn those who have not experienced this heartbreak in the past, in their communities. I have. And it does not bode well in future years on several different economic and socioeconomic levels.

Preserve the trees whenever possible (depending on what Facebook site you look at, they have been noted as a grade B or grade C by the arborist. That is concerning that there is not a clear picture of what these trees are graded as for starters). Always keep safety in mind, yes. But there should be a way to have safe roads and preservation.

Much thanks,

Meghan Gamble
Anderson Ave
James Island resident

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: dedetyler <dedetyler@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 5:50 PM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: CASE# BZAV-9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

I am totally against removing the 2 Grand Oaks as mentioned in the case above. I am asking to:

- 1) Deny the county's application for a variance to remove these grand trees. Please ask the County to look into saving these trees AND building the roundabout for safety at the intersection.
- 2) These trees have made it through hurricanes, storms and still stand and are part of an historic live oak alley down Camp Road in an historic area of James Island. These grand trees provide an important ecological function and help with flooding.
- 3) If these grand trees are cut down, it will be a substantial detriment to the public good and the character of the zoning district will be harmed.

Option C should be the choice, as it will provide the solution to save the Grand trees and complete the Roundabout!!

Debra Tyler
789 Dills Bluff Rd

Kristen Crane

From: Marlo Mytty <phlox87@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 6:17 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Comment on Case BZAV-9-22-030 re: Camp Road Grand Live Oaks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear Ms. Crane ,

Please ask the Board of Zoning Appeals to save the two Grand live oaks on Camp Rd requested to be removed in the plan for the roundabout.

Live oaks have a very long life span and can survive many things, other than being cut down. The BZA may only see this as two trees and "not a big deal", but having a forest ecology background, I notice trees and have observed significant tree loss across James Island over the past few years.

This is quite concerning given that it will take decades or even a century in some cases for lost trees to grow back if they are even replanted. Additionally, although I haven't consistently followed the BZA's decisions, I am not sure I have ever even seen a special exception request be denied, even in a case where the BZA knew there was purposeful ordinance breaking and granted an exception after the fact. Between land clearing and cutting down of trees by homeowners, the island has become much less treed in a short time and the character is changing quickly for the worse. Please require the project managers to come back with a design that does not impact any large trees.

A traffic measure would not be needed at all if drivers just slowed down and automatic ticketing was put into place or speed limits enforced. If a measure of some kind is the alternative chosen instead of requiring people to obey laws, at least don't have it be the trees and climate that lose, once again.

Sincerely,

Marlo Mytty
James Island resident

Sent from Mail for Windows

Kristen Crane

From: Beckie Hemmerling <beckie@eatsimplefood.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 6:34 PM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Please don't cut down the old oaks at camp road, ft johnson, stone post roundabout

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hi there,

Please find an alternative way to make the roundabout and not cut down these beautiful old oak trees.

Please deny the county's application for a variance to remove these oaks. They have weathered many storms and help with soil stabilization and erosion as well as being beautiful.

Thank you for your consideration, Beckie and Toby Hemmerling

--

Beckie Hemmerling
Owner / Chef
843-410-FOOD (3663)

eatsimplefood.com
pinterest.com/EatSimpleFood

Kristen Crane

From: Stephanie Snider <sne3646@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 6:47 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Re: BZA case BZAV-9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

My name is Stephanie Snider, and I live in Riverland Terrace on James Island. I am writing to you in reference to BZA case # BZAV-9-22-030.

As a resident of James Island, I am asking that you please deny the application for a variance to remove the trees in question. I ask that the county make a strong effort to save the trees in planning for the building of a roundabout.

The loss of these trees at the hands of the county would be a blow to the rich character of the zoning district and would thus be a detriment to the public good.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephanie Snider

Kristen Crane

From: chuck williams <s00cdw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Please ask the Board of Zoning Appeals to save the two Grand live oaks on Camp Rd requested to be removed in the plan for the roundabout.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear Mr Crane,

One of the most defining characteristics of James Island is our live oaks. Every one of these grand trees is priceless and a loss of even one is devastating.

The best option is for speed limits to be enforced. People drive in our community at excessive speeds and the problem would be alleviated if simply the speed limit was enforced.

Thanks
Chuck

Kristen Crane

From: Tiffany Petrie <tiffanypetrie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 8:29 PM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: please forward email to the other members of the BZA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

This is a request to deny the county's application for variance to remove the grand oak trees on camp road. A solution to save them and still have the roundabout should be considered. We have lived on James Island for 10 years and in that time have seen wonderful growth of our beautiful town but often at the expense of nature and charm. These grand oak trees are a part of our ecosystem and removal will cause a substantial detriment to the public good and the character of the zoning district will be harmed.

Sincerely,
Scott and Tiffany Petrie

Kristen Crane

From: Jaime Goddard <jaimmeg40@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:10 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: BZAV 9-22-030

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Dear BZA,

I would like the two grand oak trees rated B health to be preserved instead of removed for the Camp Road/Fort Johnson roundabout. I understand these trees are being removed due to drainage that will be required at the new intersection. These trees are 150 years old. James Island has a responsibility to preserve these grand oaks. Replanting new trees will not replace these old ones.

Best Regards,

Jaime Spivey
Stiles Point Resident since 2008

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: BETH CALDWELL <bc1019@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:45 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Cc: Brook Lyon
Subject: Saving grand oak trees

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hi,
I am writing to you and the BZA to please save these 2 grand trees at Camp and Ft Johnson Rd. There is word going around on FB that they are diseased. I now understand that an master arborist has looked at them and they are able to be saved and are not in fact doomed. I am asking that the Town go with the option that saves the trees and deny the county's application for a variance to remove these grand oaks. There is a way I am sure to build the roundabout and save the trees. I have lived on James Island for over 60 years and if these grand trees are cut down it will be a substantial detriment to the public good. The character of the zoning district will be harmed. We have some of the prettiest oak trees on James Island that have been through hurricanes and severe storms and are still standing proud . They,as all trees do,provide an ecological function and help with flooding. Please deny the county's application and protect these beautiful trees.
Sincerely,
Beth Caldwell

Kristen Crane

From: lyongusts@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:05 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Fwd: Grand oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson

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looks like you were not copied on this one

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Welch <welchga@gmail.com>
To: lyongusts@aol.com
Sent: Mon, Nov 14, 2022 7:30 pm
Subject: Grand oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson

One of the things that always cheers me up is driving under the canopy of oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson. I love the fact that they have been in that location for generations, and no amount of bad weather or neglect has destroyed their will to leave. They are survivors! Let's leave them be.

I'm sure that it is possible to build the new roundabout without cutting down any trees. We just need to be a little creative and think outside the box.

We need to start thinking of the climate in everything that we do, starting with the two oaks at Camp and Fort Johnson.

Anne Welch

Kristen Crane

From: Cathy Moore <moore29412@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:36 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Roundabout

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good morning,

I recognize the roundabout is needed for safety. I think the area should be cleaned up before any trees are cut down, especially if those trees are still viable.

We should be wise stewards of nature's gifts. We just got recognition as a Tree City. That should be because we save them as well as plant them.

Thank you for the consideration.

Kristen Crane

From: Beth Thatch <beth.thatche@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:45 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Removing grand oaks- James Island

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I agree with Garrett Milliken and disagree with Mayor Woolsey.

The bottom line is, those trees are more valuable than all the "people" who want the convenience of irresponsibly racing around the island.

There is little traffic at that intersection. For the traffic there, a stoplight is really needed, not a roundabout. That is a fairly dangerous intersection (blind areas) due to curves on Ft Johnson Road.

If people feel like their traffic route shouldn't be a problem, and don't care if these magnificent trees are cut down, perhaps they ought to move back to whatever treeless place they came from.

Maybe that's harsh, but the beauty of James Island shouldn't be further destroyed just to accommodate those from out of the area who feel like they can't wait one more minute in traffic in order to preserve a 150 year old tree or two.

I am really sick of this thinking by officials in the Charleston area. To see how bad tree destruction can get, one only needs to cross the Ravenel Bridge and visit the hideously ugly Mt Pleasant.

It's not the right look for James Island. Thank goodness Garrett Milliken has the guts to say so, too.

Thank you,

Beth Thatch
843-696-0056

Kristen Crane

From: Ed Henry <scfirefightered@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:00 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Trees

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Find a different way to fix this besides cutting any trees Use more of the firehouse yard or put in a red light intersection

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Pam Mahaffey <pmahaffey75@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: Save trees please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: Julie Renkas <julie.o.renkas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Cc: Brook Lyon
Subject: BZA Camp Rd/Ft Johnson roundabout - public comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good morning, Kristen,

Please pass my concerns about the proposed removal of grand trees in order to install the roundabout at Camp and Ft. Johnson.

First, as a life-long resident of James Island, I am fully aware of the need for safety improvements at that intersection. I almost always seek an alternative route, in the name of safety, instead of taking a left onto Ft Johnson from Camp.

However, also as a life-long resident of James Island, I am deeply troubled by the incessant tree removal happening all over the island, and the subsequent habitat loss for wildlife and drainage impacts, as well as the loss of beautiful tree canopies whose shade helps so much in the long, hot months of summer, protecting the ground from the glare of the sun. Removing more grand trees constitutes a clear detriment to public good and the character of our beloved island.

It has come to my attention that, contrary to the Town's public statements on the matter, an alternative to removing the two trees while still building the roundabout exists. We can request a variance from SCDOT to change how and where stormwater drainage pipes might be installed.

I urge the BZA to deny Charleston County's application to remove the indicated grand trees. In the interest of all residents, there is a way to save them and build the roundabout, and it is essential that the County explore those creative options before removing more trees, more life, adding more heat and drainage troubles than the drainage system would help.

Thank you for including my concerns and comments in the notes to the BZA committee.

Regards,
Julie Ohlandt Renkas
1304 Julian Clark Road

Kristen Crane

From: Leslie Armstrong <lesliearmstrong55@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:26 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Killing Trees on Camp Rd Unnecessarily

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hello,

Please do not approve the county's application for a variance to remove the trees on Camp Road. Experts agree that a roundabout can be accomplished without killing these trees.

Killing these old beautiful trees (which actually help with flooding) would be a loss for all James Island residents and would greatly diminish the beauty and character of this area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Armstrong

Kristen Crane

From: Sandye Williams <williamssandye@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: Save our grand trees

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hello,

I'm sending this email to ask you to please do all you can to save the grand trees at the intersection of camp in fort Johnson.

As someone who grew up on James Island, I've seen 50 years of growth threaten so many trees. These trees are irreplaceable, and they deserve to stand! Surely a solution can be found to create a Roundabout and proper stormwater runoff as well while still allowing these trees to live on.

These oaks have been neglected, but with a little TLC I am confident that they can thrive for generations to come!

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sandye

Sent from my iPhone

Kristen Crane

From: M Hatfield <hatfieldm1166@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 11:10 AM
To: Kristen Crane
Cc: Brook Lyon
Subject: Tree removal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Hello,

Please consider an alternative solution to destroying our beautiful trees on our Island. There have been so many trees removed from James Island and it's beauty has been forever changed. As a lifetime resident of James Island, I would like to ask the BZA to consider a creative solution to save these trees and still proceed with the roundabout. However, please also take into consideration the historic preservation of the stone entrance to Stone Post Road.

Best regards,

Michelle Hatfield
James Island Resident (56 years)

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2022

RS

November 15, 2022

I have lived on James Island, off of Fort Johnson Road, my entire life. The trees along this road and Camp Road are our sanctuary, our church. Their beauty far surpasses any stained glass or vaulted ceilings. They are as sacred as any cemetery or battle ground created by man.

Their branches and leaves are the ceiling and roof to our homes here. The roots are deep like ours, with generations before and generations after that have witnessed their wonder and size. Nothing manmade is more important or necessary than these trees, which are the heart of James Island.

They are as much a part of the spirit of James Island, as the Trojans down the street. If anything should be done to help with the traffic, perhaps tear the building down across the street and perhaps relocate the fire station as well and work with those spaces. If it is truly a dangerous intersection, do the simplest thing and four in a four way stop sign.

I bicycle this road often just because of the trees. Students bike and walk this route every day. A round about would only make crossing the street more difficult here for bikers and pedestrians. It will create a danger when there wasn't one before.

Sincerely,

Kristi Wertan

Kristen Crane

From: Art Vandelay <artvandelay883@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Kristen Crane
Subject: For CASE #BZAV-9-22-030 Public Comment Please Accept!
Attachments: Buchanan BZAV-9-22-030.docx

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Dear Ms. Crane,

Please accept my comments regarding Case #BZAV-9-030. I am copy/pasting it in the body of the email and attaching as a word document. I am so sorry it was not submitted by noon. I thought I sent it but it saved as a draft. I had to rush my dog to vet- it's been quite a day. I hope you can still pass along my letter to the board.

Thank you,
Casey Buchanan

For CASE #BZAV-9-22-030-

Dear Members of the BZA,

My name is Casey Buchanan, and I am writing to implore you to deny the variance request for removing two grand trees (44" DBH Live Oak and 37.5" DBH Live Oak) for intersection improvements at Camp Rd and Fort Johnson Road.

As a resident of James Island, I support efforts to improve our roads, including the intersection in question. That said, we must take every action to protect and save as many grand trees as possible on our island. These trees are a critical part of our infrastructure. Unfortunately, we dismiss their importance for water management at our peril. In his letter to Planning Director Kristen Crane, Mr. Keane McLaughlin of ESP Associates states that the original site design called for the removal of 16 grand trees and was revised to reduce the number of trees removed. I appreciate the efforts made to modify the site design. Undoubtedly, the drainage aspect of the planned road improvement can be revised to accommodate these two grand oaks.

According to Article 153.049 Zoning Variances, §153.049 F Approval Criteria of the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), a Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Zoning Appeals makes and explains in writing findings related to seven criteria. Criteria D states, "The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance."

Mr. McLaughlin states in his letter that "The area does occasionally flood; the new stormwater pipes that will be placed where the trees are will address flooding issues." Ripping out two grand trees in an area that regularly floods will most certainly be of substantial detriment to the adjacent properties and the public good. Trees, especially large, old trees, are remarkable water pumps and air conditioners. According to the USGS, a mature tree can soak up 40,000 gallons of water a year. These trees pump water through their roots, allowing more water from the ground to seep in. Then they release this moisture in their canopies like misting humidifiers, cooling everything around them. It makes no sense to rip

out two grand live oaks (44" DBH and 37.5" DBH, respectively) to install a new stormwater pipe. Given the severity of flooding issues on James Island and the greater Charleston area, surely finding a way to accommodate the new storm pipe and all of the existing grand trees is the only way forward.

I would also argue that removing two grand oaks from a scenic and historic roadway will be a substantial detriment to the public good and character of the zoning district if the variance is granted. Every effort must be made to preserve and care for the stately, large old oak trees that line many of our roads. These trees are irreplaceable and to cut even one down unnecessarily is to erode the character of James Island.

In conclusion, consider why these trees are protected in the first place and ask yourself what is the point of zoning regulations to protect our grand trees if one can easily request and obtain a variance to cut them down? These trees protect us from flooding- we need to protect them too.

Sincerely,
Casey Hall Buchanan, PhD
1022 Yorktown Drive
Charleston, SC 29412

Sent from my iPad

Kristen Crane

From: Gail Hawkins <bluejayhawks53@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 2:46 AM
To: Kristen Crane

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I feel that the intersection of Fort Johnson, Camp, & Stone Post Rd. needs a traffic light, not a roundabout! The reason that I feel this way is because of the fire station located on the Stone Post side of the intersection. They need to be able to maneuver quickly when there is a fire. A traffic light would be easier for them to get to their destination in a hurry. They could have a switch placed where they could switch the traffic light to flashing red in an emergency. It would slow the fire trucks down to be able to maneuver around a small roundabout!

Sincerely, Gail Jay Hawkins

Kristen Crane

From: Susan Milliken <sbmilliken@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Cc: Garrett Milliken; dancboles@gmail.com; Cynthia Mignano; Darren Mullinax
Subject: BZA Case #BZAV-9-22-030--County--2 grand live oak trees

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Kristen and Brook,

Please share this email with the other members of the BZA. Thank you.

Please deny the County's application to cut down two healthy, historic, "B" rated grand oak trees on Camp Road.

This application does not meet criteria (D) or (G) that the BZA must look at to grant this variance.

Regarding criteria (D) The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance

It WILL most definitely be a substantial detriment to the public good and the character of the zoning district to cut down two historic grand live oaks, some 100+ years old and rated in Good health, to install drainage for a nearby intersection improvement plan; and

Regarding criteria (G) Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

Granting the variance to cut down two historic grand live oaks in Good "B" rated health will most certainly substantially conflict with the Town of James Island's Comprehensive Plan which emphasizes preservation of James Island's natural environment. Please see details below:

Town of James Island's Comprehensive Plan (2021):

1. Natural Resources Element: Recognizes the diverse natural features in the Town and includes strategies to preserve and protect them. (p. 3)

Land Use Element Needs

Land Use element needs include, but are not limited to the following:

- Preserving the suburban character of the area;

- Preserving the natural, multi-cultural, historic, and aesthetic integrity of the Town; and
- Encouraging sensitive and sustainable development practices. (p. 10)
- **Natural Resources Element Goal**
Protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment by promoting biodiversity and preserving and improving ecosystems. (p.18)
- Comprehensive Plan at: <https://www.jamesislandsc.us/Data/Sites/1/media/zldr/toji-comprehensive-plan-final-2021.pdf>
-
- I am hopeful that the roundabout or another intersection improvement CAN be installed with these two B rated grand oak trees saved. (Note: We would never want to save dying trees in poor health).

We see that under the vines, these trees are special and irreplaceable. Master arborist Michael Murphy from Beaufort, SC has examined the oaks and rated them Bs or Good. He has been silenced from speaking by phone or by Zoom by the Town of James Island.

Moreover, Town Council has not taken up the approval of this intersection project design. The Town of James Island must approve or deny the design and vote on whether to enter into a construction contract with the County for the intersection project. This should occur BEFORE any vote is taken to cut down trees. **Three members of Town Council: Troy Mullinax, Dan Boles and Garrett Milliken have spoken out publicly or by email urging the preservation of these 2 grand oak trees.**

Live 5 News Story: <https://www.live5news.com/2022/11/15/residents-james-island-express-concern-over-potential-removal-grand-oaks/>

We desire safer roads and intersections and to preserve our special trees. **Please Deny the variance request.**

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our island.

Sincerely,
Susan Milliken
762 Fort Sumter Dr.
James Island, SC 29412

Kristen Crane

From: jenny welch <jerdone@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 7:25 AM
To: Kristen Crane; Brook Lyon
Subject: CASE #BZAV-9-22-030

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Please forward to BZA today before the meeting.

Dear BZA Board,

I am writing to ask that you deny Charleston County's application to remove two grand trees on Camp Road. In the latest letter, the County says their arborist is giving the trees a "poor" rating. That is very surprising since master arborist Michael Murphy from Beaufort, SC (whose report you have) gives them both B ratings, with a real shot at becoming A rated with pruning and care.

How can the health of these trees be assessed so differently by two arborists? It is really important that we recognize these discrepancies given that the health of these trees is quickly becoming the basis on whether or not these trees should be removed or, instead, worked around. I ask that you deny the variance.

Thank you,
Jenny Welch
1163 East and West Rd.



Michael P. Murphy,
NJ-0146B

January 15, 2023

James Island BZA
1122 Dills Bluff Road
Charleston, SC 29412
James Island, SC

Dear Ms. Crane, Ms. Lyons and members of the BZA,

My name is Michael Murphy, I am a Board-Certified Master Arborist, NJ-0146B, and have worked in the field of Arboriculture since 1972. In November of 2022 I was contracted by Jenny Welch to perform an independent health assessment on the two Grand trees in question here on Camp Road. The results of my assessment shows that the BZA has been given insufficient data on these trees. They are not in poor condition. On the contrary, they are in very good condition. Their canopies are actually very good as apposed to the applicant representative's statement on 10-18-22 that they are very bad. The "hollow center / hollow base" that is mentioned often in the record is actually an old bark scar that is solid, showing no evidence of decay, is sealing over nicely and has no adverse structural bearing on the tree.

The canopies have increased structural stability due to the periodic reduction pruning that occurs during the utility pruning cycles. Trees growing off to the side, and not growing directly under powerlines, benefit greatly from rotational reduction pruning which is an important component of Conservation Arboriculture.

Vines ARE present in the tree canopies, but this is not a condition of their physical or structural health. Their removal is an easily performed maintenance procedure that can boost their health score from a "B" to an "A".

It was very easy to believe that these two trees were in such poor physical and structural health from the language used over again in reports to describe them. Even a brief site visit might not be enough to sway any doubters. I performed a thorough modified Level II Tree Risk Assessment, and I attest that these two trees, the 37.5 and 44-inch DBH live oaks, which have been previously described to you as "just not very good trees overall" and in "poor" condition are fine Grand Tree specimens that do not deserve to be condemned because of incomplete information. The only thing poor or just not very good overall, is the assessment data on these trees that has been submitted to you by the applicant.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. My report of November 11, 2022 is attached.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Murphy
Board Certified Master Arborist
NJ-0146B

Kristen Crane

From: jenny welch <jerdone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Brook Lyon; Kristen Crane
Subject: Please forward to BZA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Kristen,
Please forward to members of BZA
Thank you,
Jenny Welch

Good morning Jenny,

In answer to your questions:

1). No one, not even the most learned plant pathologists, can say that any tree will or won't die from specific root impacts that take place well within what would normally be a tree root protection zone, even if that impact is the installation of a 24-inch drainpipe. That size pipe would need at least a 48-inch-wide trench at its deepest point. That trench would need to be wider at the top to prevent cave ins. The deeper the trench, the wider the excavation needs to be at grade, so sometimes the tree is more in the way of the top of the excavation, not necessarily where the drainage pipes are placed. In this type of soil environment and elevation, if the drainage pipe placement could ever be engineered to be placed further away from the tree trunk, and roots encountered that are larger than 3-inches in diameter are clean-cut, most live oaks can withstand that amount of root loss as long as there are no disturbances on the other side of the tree. Live oaks are considered a tree that has a Differential Species Response to impacts that would adversely affect most other tree species. It is possible that engineering efforts back on the drawing board could have saved the trees.

While I have no specific data, there are successful examples of trees that have survived construction and stormwater drainage installation within 10-15ft of the trunk all over the country. State and County DOTs as well as municipal Public Works Departments are constantly improving roads and drainage in areas where there are no tree protection ordinances in place. The City of Beaufort recently completed a very aggressive drainage improvement project where trees directly in the way of any of the improvements were removed but trees off to the sides, many well within 10-feet of the excavations, were retained with no root pruning requirements. So far, no tree deaths or failures.

2) Pavement installation will normally not adversely affect most healthy trees, especially when only placed on one side and there is no damage to the immediate root flare area.

Michael

From: jenny welch <jerdone@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Susan Milliken <sbmilliken@gmail.com>; prestree@islc.net
Subject: Thank you and a question!

Hello,

Thank you for submitting that letter to BZA members. I really appreciate you taking the time to do that.

After looking through the minutes from the last few meetings, I have two questions for you:

1) the county keep claiming that unless the road is built 10-15 feet away from the base of the tree, the trees will die regardless due to root structure damage from installing the drainage (24 inch pipes and curb and gutter) and that basic construction within 10-15 feet will negatively impact the trees and likely kill them. Is there any validity to this? In our case, it would be likely within 1-3 feet of the tree so very close.

If you have any specific successful examples of trees that have survived construction and stormwater drainage installation within 10-15ft of the trunk, that would be very helpful.

2) the letter references another tree (at the immediate intersection) and is absolutely beautiful. I am not sure if you remember it. Anyhow, I am curious if that tree will be harmed when they lay impervious surface atop its current root system and much closer to its trunk?

Thank you so much Michael,

Jenny