



TOWN OF SALISBURY
CONNECTICUT

June 24, 2024

To: Town of Salisbury
Land Use Administrator
PO Box 548
Salisbury, CT 06068

From: Mat Kiefer, Tree Warden, Town of Salisbury

Today I received the most recent Site Plan titled "Site Plan Revised, Salisbury Housing Trust, 26 & 28 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, dated April 10, 2024, Revised 4/23/2024, Revised 6/13/2024 by Patrick R. Hackett, P.E."

The most recent revision shows new locations of two proposed houses and a proposed driveway that will service the two houses.

Please refer to my letter dated June 10, 2024 regarding this Old Grove School Parcel for statements made.

As Salisbury Tree Warden, I am always concerned for the health of trees along Town roads and on Town properties.

As stated in my letter of June 10, 2024, the trees are currently in good health.

Any proposed changes in activity (proposed buildings and proposed driveway) will have an adverse effect on the trees.

Please call me with any questions.

Mat Kiefer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mat".



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Old Grove School Parcel owned by the Town of Salisbury - Map 56/Lot 06 (Undermountain Rd, Salisbury)
It is shown on a map titled "Map Prepared for Salisbury Housing Trust, Undermountain Road, Route 41, Salisbury, Connecticut, Scale 1"=20', January 31, 2008, Total Area = 0.813± Acres".

Presently the Grove School lot has no buildings. Please review the referenced map for locations of trees shown. The trees shown are in good health, which includes the two large white oak trees. With proper care they should be around for several more decades.

Currently there is an existing gravel driveway into the property with a gravel parking area suitable for 10 to 12 cars.

Upon review of the proposed improvements shown on plans dated April 10, 2024 and titled "Sheet 1 of 4, Salisbury Housing Trust, Undermountain Road, Salisbury Connecticut, Site Plan Option 1" and "Sheet 2 of 4, Salisbury Housing Trust, Undermountain Road, Salisbury Connecticut, Site Plan Option 2" prepared by Patrick R. Hackett, Professional Engineer.

Site Plan Option 1 and Site Plan Option 2 show proposed improvements with a proposed road along the southern property line. This proposed new road would have an adverse effect to the tree root systems along the south side of the property. If the proposed driveway would be built approximately half of the tree roots would be killed. Also, on the two mentioned plans are proposed buildings and/or parking. The improvements as shown in the area of the two large white oaks would have adverse effect on the root systems.

The existing gravel driveway and gravel parking area is working. The vehicular traffic in this area has compacted the underlying soils. There is currently no vegetation. Tree roots that are in the top 8 inches are most important to the health of any tree.

It is my opinion the location of the existing driveway has been in the same location for many decades. I remember in the 1960's the old school house was being used by the Town of Salisbury as a gathering place for Salisbury teenagers. That old school house was under the left hand (second in) white oak. The earliest picture of the school house is 1870 and hangs in the Town Clerk's office. Most likely the roots learned to grow around the old school house and the current road, which leads me to believe that is why the trees are in good health.

It is my opinion, that any proposed improvements to the Grove School lot should have the proposed driveway follow the existing gravel road and stay far away from these two white oak trees. If there are any underground utilities proposed they should also be underneath the existing road.

I would not recommend trying to change the existing driveway or parking area.

Tree roots go out through the top 8" – 12" of the ground as far as the tree is tall and are not limited to the "drip line" of the tree's canopy.

Please call me with any questions.
Mat Kiefer