



TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE

*Memo from the desk of:
Christopher A. Bedrosian
Environmental/Shade Tree
Ext. 249*

TO: Kristie Dickert, Planning Board Administrative Officer

DATE: April 22, 2021

SUBJECT: PB21/01 Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan
M&M at Neptune LLC Block 701 Lot 1 704 Highway 35

Please be advised the Environmental/Shade Tree Commission has reviewed the above mentioned application. Please find their comments:

We as a citizen board make a *very strong recommendation against* the following on the plant list:

1. Winged euonymus
2. Sawtooth oak
3. Hedge maple

Winged euonymus is known to be a non-native invasive plant and is banned in many states, including Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire. Alternatives include highbush blueberry, black chokeberry, fragrant sumac, itea virginica, clethra alnifolia, viburnum nudum, and spicebush (lindera benoin). Our native oakleaf hydrangea has beautiful deep red fall foliage, sometimes spotted with yellow/gold; Pee Wee is a dwarf cultivar that maxes out at 4' H&W

Sawtooth oak is not a native oak; there are many desirable native oaks from which to choose, willow oak and shingle oak are two examples.

A. Unlike our native oaks, this tree produces very heavy crops of acorns earlier in the season and almost every year, which acorns are lower in nutritional value than those of our native oaks. It seems to me the heavy acorn production would be a maintenance issue going forward.

B. This tree has demonstrated invasive potential - the likelihood that it will escape cultivation into wild areas where it will degrade the environment by out-competing native species.

C. May not be as long-lived as our native oaks. As a very fast-growing tree, it has a weaker branch structure, less dense wood and does not hold up well in strong winds. Another maintenance issue.

Hedge maple - per the Morton Arboretum, this tree has exhibited invasive traits that enable them to spread aggressively. They do not recommend planting of this tree. There are many desirable native maples from which to choose.

I was a bit surprised to see the London plane tree on the list, as they, too, would seem to be a maintenance issue with the exfoliating bark (similar to sycamore). They are lovely trees, though, and there are no other objection