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Sept 6, 2022

To whom it may concern:

My name is John Marquis. I am the owner of Marquis Tree Service, Inc. I hold an associate degree in Arboriculture and a bachelor's degree, in Urban Forestry from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I am currently an ISA certified arborist.

I was asked by Kate Iannarone to evaluate some trees at her home at 21 Brewer Lane, Reading, MA because of her concerns about the safety of the trees in her back yard.

In my opinion, the trees do in fact pose a hazard and should be removed. The trees in question are Eastern white pines with Co-dominant leaders. The trees are top-heavy, and have inclusive bark. Co-dominant pines have unsafe junctures where the leaders connect. These junctures are not naturally occurring, and they are not stable. White Pine trees are supposed to grow with one straight dominant leader. "Co-dominance" or multiple large leaders is a condition created by an insect attacking the tree and causing the terminal bud to split. Co-dominant white pine trees are much more likely to fail without warning than other trees and are especially susceptible to damage when weather produces high winds, or an excessive weight load caused by snow or even rain. To make matters worse several of these lean over towards the home.

The first question in determining whether-or-not a tree is a hazard is "what is the target and what is the likelihood of serious physical injury or property damage if a failure should occur?" If these trees were to fail at the base, split at the crotch or even just lose a large limb, it is almost certain that they will cause serious property damage to the house and more importantly potential harm to people.

In closing I would like to repeat that because of the structural defects of these trees and the proximity to people and property, it is my opinion that the trees are hazards and should be removed.

Respectfully,

MARQUIS TREE SERVICE, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Marquis", written in a cursive style.

John Marquis  
President  
ISA #NE-7104A