

# The Shade Tree Department LLC

August 10, 2015

Borough of Chatham  
Att: Robert Venezia  
54 Fairmount Avenue  
Chatham, NJ 07928  
Email: [rjv23@optonline.net](mailto:rjv23@optonline.net)

## RE: July 15, 2015 Report on the Scarlet Oak at Lower Lum Field

Dear Mr. Venezia,

I am writing in response to your request for clarification of my comment recommending “restricted activity” beneath the canopy of the Scarlet Oak Tree in lower Lum Field.

The tree itself is in fairly good condition and barring any unforeseen circumstances has many years of life left in it.

My intention in making that statement was to discourage activity beneath the tree where people would linger such as installing park benches where people might seek refuge in a storm or installing picnic tables. At my suggestion the trash receptacle has been relocated. I do not feel that the tree needs to be barricaded off from the public especially if it receives the recommended pruning and periodic inspection in the future. Such inspections would be scheduled at least annually and subsequent to significant storms.

In my opinion, the hazard rating of 7 is low and certainly does not warrant removal of the tree.

If a more accurate estimation of the extent of internal decay is needed, I suggested at the Shade Tree Commission meeting that the tree be tested with a Resistograph which measures and records internal tree defects and get a second opinion for another N.J. Certified Tree Expert.

I hope that expanded explanation satisfies your concern.

Sincerely,

*John D. Linson*

John D. Linson  
NJ Certified Tree Expert #198

**The Shade Tree Department LLC**

**PO Box 6089 WOB**

**West Orange, NJ 07052**

[theshadetreedepartment@live.com](mailto:theshadetreedepartment@live.com)

(973) 766-2143