

From: Amy Lynch <amylachatlynch@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 1:25 PM

To: scullen1@bellsouth.net; cabanastonya@gmail.com; ed@treepriorities.com; Misha D. McRAE <KWIslander@gmail.com>; bugglesxm@yahoo.com; m_henriq@bellsouth.net; ptownkw@me.com; Tree EXT EMAIL <tree@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Cc: kwtreelady@gmail.com; planning-dept <planning-dept@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Tippi Koziol <tippi.koziol@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Sapodilla Tree: 719 Poorhouse Lane

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Tree Commission:

I live in the neighborhood of Bill Butler Park, and I am strongly opposed to allowing the perfectly healthy 100 year old Sapodilla tree located on a vacant lot at 719 Poorhouse Lane to be cut down.

If there is ever a case for keeping a tree that provides public benefit and is on a location on the lot that can be built around without any hardship to the new owner who bought the lot with the tree there... this is it.

The Tree Commission has the authority and responsibility to protect the health and growth of certain trees because they are assets to Key West, benefiting both the health and economic welfare of the citizens. This sapodilla, a beautiful specimen of a species of special protection located on the edge of a public park frequented by residents, families and children in a densely populated area of the city deserves this protection. It is a natural resource that provides canopy, shade, habitat, oxygen production, dust filtration, erosion prevention and drainage improvement.

When a property owner purchases a property with a natural resource with value to the entire community, the public resource must be protected in the development plans for that property.

Please deny the request to cut down this tree.

Thank you.

~Amy Lynch

From: Hal Bromm <halbromm@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 5:40 PM

To: cabanastonya@gmail.com; ed@treepriorities.com; KWIslander@gmail.com; bugglesxm@yahoo.com; m_henriq@bellsouth.net; ptownkw@me.com; Tree EXT EMAIL <tree@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; planning-dept <planning-dept@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Tippi Koziol <tippi.koziol@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; scullen1@bellsouth.net; Keri O'Brien <kobrien@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] 719 Poorhouse Ln/T2024-0351/ Sapodilla tree removal application

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Dear Commissioner,

Above are photos of neighbors opposed to the removal of the Sapodilla tree standing at the northern edge of the lot at 719 Poorhouse Lane. **Perhaps**

these images will give you a sense of the scale, health and importance of this tree, shown towering over the group.

As a resident of Poorhouse Lane, I join my neighbors who are deeply concerned that the Tree Commission has been asked to grant consent to remove this magnificent large Sapodilla tree from the northern boundary of the subject property. There is great opposition to this request, given the sense of character that this significant tree provides to the area. Bill Butler Park, immediately adjacent, has no similar tree of such scale.

The tree is one of the very oldest in the area, and contributes to the park and the neighborhood's unique sense of place. Moreover, it provides vital shade to the open paved area, particularly important as we face increased climactic severity. Your commission has the authority and responsibility to protect the health and growth of such valuable trees that are assets to Key West, benefiting the health and welfare of the citizens.

This Sapodilla tree is a beautiful specimen, located on the edge of a public park frequented by residents, families and children in a densely populated area of the city. It is a natural resource that provides canopy, shade, habitat, oxygen production, dust filtration, erosion prevention and drainage improvement. It deserves your protection.

As you may be aware, to the south of the Sapodilla tree on the lot of 719 Poorhouse Lane once stood an historic old Key West cottage that in recent years was demolished by the city. Clearly the tree presented no obstacle to that house, just as it does not interfere with or prevent the construction of a new house in place of the old. In fact, the tree stands some distance north from the location of the former house.

Given that the lot is within the Old Town Historic District, the cultural significance of historic trees and landscapes is important and should be recognized. **Yet that importance seems lost on the**

applicant. It is with a sad sense of irony to read that the applicant Douglas Maxwell (a Real Estate Broker with Upstate Modernist 6378 Mill St., 2nd Floor Rhinebeck, NY 12572) professes to have deep respect and reverence for such landscapes and the importance of trees. An article on his work with architect Christopher Dierig was featured in the May, 2024 publication

Chronogram: <https://www.chronogram.com/home/upstate-modernist-marries-a-preservation-mindset-with-modernist-architecture-20636099>.

In the article, he is quoted:

Before beginning any project, the duo spends considerable time familiarizing themselves with the surrounding property. *"We spend a lot of time just walking, quite frankly," he says. "The land is paramount. We get a sense of the unique characteristics and what a property is about, both naturally and historically. These factors drive an entire project.....We didn't want to touch anything and we didn't want to cut down any trees because it was so beautiful."*

Mr. Maxwell should be aware that the subject Sapodilla tree is an asset to this community, and those who live here value our historic trees just as we cherish our historic architecture. Since the tree does not present an obstacle to new construction on this lot, it should not be a casualty to poorly planned development. The loss of this tree would seriously impact many. With your denial, we know this tree will live on beyond our lives, giving future residents the beauty we all enjoy while providing important environmental benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hal Bromm

727 Poorhouse Lane

From: **Sharon Grayden** <grayden@umich.edu>
Date: Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 4:46 PM
Subject: Save the Sapodilla Tree--719 Poorhouse Lane
To: <cityclerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, <kwtreelady@gmail.com>
Cc: Hal Bromm <halbromm@gmail.com>, <amylachatlynch@aol.com>

Dear Tree Commission:

We are writing in regard to the request to remove the majestic Sapodilla tree on the lot adjacent to Bill Butler Park. As Poorhouse Lane residents and concerned Key West neighbors we value the importance of our city's tree canopy; a canopy that is challenged by each storm and hurricane that hits the island. Every tree we lose is significant, so the indiscriminate removal of this magnificent natural resource seems careless and cavalier.

Why does the owner of the lot want to remove this tree? Has a site plan been submitted to justify the request? As others have noted, until recently, a house and the tree resided harmoniously on the lot for decades and decades. Moving forward we should be working toward that goal. Save the Sapodilla and preserve the beauty and history of our very special neighborhood.

Sharon Grayden
Stephen Bayne
732 Poorhouse Lane

From: **Lynn Marie Smith** <lynnmariekw@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 7:26 AM

Subject: 719 Poorhouse Sapodilla Tree

To: <kwtreelady@gmail.com>, <cityclerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Good Morning,

I was very sad to hear that the new owner of the property at 719 Poorhouse wants to take down our beloved Sapodilla tree.

I've lived just down the street at 712 William for 25 years. That tree is a beautiful giant, and deserves to be cared for. Please, letting newcomers (or anyone for that matter) destroy our beautiful tree cover is just not right.

I urge you to deny the request.

Lynn-Marie Smith

712 William St.

From: **GOVUS,DAVID** <dgovus@ellijay.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 12:54 PM

Subject: sapodilla tree at 719 poorhouse lane

To: <kwtreelady@gmail.com>

Cc: John Martini <jm@johnmartini.com>, Hal Bromm <halbromm@gmail.com>, <katiehalloran@cityofkeywest-flgov>

My house at 823 Galveston Lane adjoins 719 poorhouse lane. I built my house 39 years ago and the sapodilla tree was already very large and handsome. A house typical of many in the neighborhood existed on the lot at that time. An elderly Black woman lived in the house and maintained a small garden. I noticed that she harvested the fruit of the Sapodilla. Many believe the fruit has health benefits. At that time there were many Black families in the neighborhood and several gardens. Nearly all the Black families are gone now but the tree remains. I notice that people come from around town to harvest the fruit. The tree provides cooling shade and perhaps is the largest Sapodilla in KW. I think the tree should stay. The current owner bought the lot with the tree on it and there is room to build a house without removing the tree.

David Govus