

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted as of 1/13/25



Karen DeMaria <kwtreelady@gmail.com>

Tree Commission: 719 Poorhouse Ln/T2024-0351/ Sapodilla tree removal application

Hal Bromm <halbromm@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 10:45 AM

To: kwtreelady@gmail.com

Dear Karen DeMaria,

Tippi Koziol advised you are the city's consultant in absence of a staff urban forester. Thank you for your work on what surely must be a tough job.

As a resident of Poorhouse Lane, I join friends and neighbors who have been deeply concerned to learn that the Tree Commissioners will be asked to grant consent to remove a magnificent large Sapodilla tree from the northern boundary of the property located at 719 Poorhouse Lane. 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.

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."*

Tippi mentioned that you are currently preparing a report on the agenda items that will be heard on January 21st at the Tree Commission. For 719 Poorhouse Lane, it is hoped that your report will point out that the subject Sapodilla tree is an asset to this community, and that 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 whose loss will seriously impact so many. May this tree live on beyond our lives, giving future residents the beauty we all enjoy.

Many of the area residents would like to submit public comments and I understand from Tippi that we may do so once there is an Ecomment option available pending the publication of the agenda. Is that correct?

Is it also possible to copy the Tree Commission members and if so what would be the correct manner to do so?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hal Bromm

727 Poorhouse Lane



Karen DeMaria <kwtreelady@gmail.com>

Tree Commission: 719 Poorhouse Ln/T2024-0351/ Sapodilla tree removal application

Hal Bromm <halbromm@gmail.com>
To: kwtreelady@gmail.com
Cc: City Clerk <cityclerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 6:23 PM

Dear Ms DeMaria and Clerk O'Brien,
Today, a few of the area neighbors who oppose removal of the Sapodilla tree at 719 Poorhouse Lane gathered at the tree for photos, attached and below.

Would you advise on how to share these images with the members of the Tree Commission for projection at the January 21st meeting?

Thank you for your kind assistance,

Hal
305 292 2856





[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



group photo 1.jpg
4892K







Karen DeMaria <kwtreelady@gmail.com>

719 poorhouse

1 message

John Martini <jm@johnmartini.com>

Fri, Jan 10, 2025 at 2:17 PM

To: kwtreelady@gmail.com

Cc: cityclerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov, Hal Bromm <halbromm@gmail.com>

Greetings,

As a long time neighbor of the sapodilla tree at 719 Poorhouse lane I join many other neighbors in objecting to requests to eliminate this tree.

John Martini

810 Galveston lane



Karen DeMaria <kwtreelady@gmail.com>

FW: [EXTERNAL] Tree in Bill Butler Park

Katie P. Halloran <katie.halloran@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Tue, Dec 3, 2024 at 2:57 PM

To: "amylachatlynch@gmail.com" <amylachatlynch@gmail.com>

Cc: Tippi Koziol <tippi.koziol@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Misha D. McRAE" <kwislander@gmail.com>

Good afternoon Amy,

Thank you for writing. Staff is recommending postponement of this item from this evening's Tree Commission hearing. I recommend you write to all Tree Commissioners, although I have copied the Chair here, Mr. Misha McRae. I am familiar with the tree you are referencing and although I am not an arborist, the forestry program is within the Planning Department and we are doing our best to be responsive to forestry related concerns in the absence of an Urban Forestry Manager.

I hope that the Tree Commission will go ahead and postpone all items we have not yet been able to address as staff.

Warm regards,

Katie

From: Amy Lynch <amylachatlynch@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 12:08 PM

To: Tree EXT EMAIL <tree@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; planning-dept <planning-dept@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tree in Bill Butler Park

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.

Would you please confirm that this item is being postponed and will not be decided at tonight's Tree Commission meeting?

I live in the neighborhood and am strongly opposed to allowing this perfectly healthy 100 year old tree on a vacant lot to be cut down.

If there is ever a case for keeping a tree that provides canopy, shade and habitat 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.

This is what the Tree Commission is for.

~AMY LYNCH

PROPOSED TO BE POSTPONED BY STAFF:

719 Poorhouse Ln/T2024-0351/Doug Maxwell-Key West
Modernist, LLC
Represented by John Hartman
Requesting approval to remove (1) Sapodilla tree