

**TITLE: A Tree Died in Bellingham, 7/10/2025**

Narrative to accompany WPA Request for Determination of Applicability application for 287 Lakeshore Drive in Bellingham, Massachusetts, 02019

An oak tree died at 287 Lakeshore Drive in Bellingham, Massachusetts. The death was laborious. First, all her leaves were eaten by the gypsy moth infestation of 2016. The caterpillars returned in 2017 and devoured her leaves again. For three years, the oak sprouted leaves on one small limb, and we hoped for her return. It has been five years since any green sprouting, and it is clear she is very dead. We would like to have this oak cut down before limbs or trunk fall on a person and before more limbs fall on the house.

**THE TREE**

This is a picture of the oak taken on July 10, 2025. Her diameter near the bottom is 25.8 inches.



The tree is close to our house (12 feet) and has a slight tilt towards it, becoming a safety hazard.



The dead limbs overhang the house:

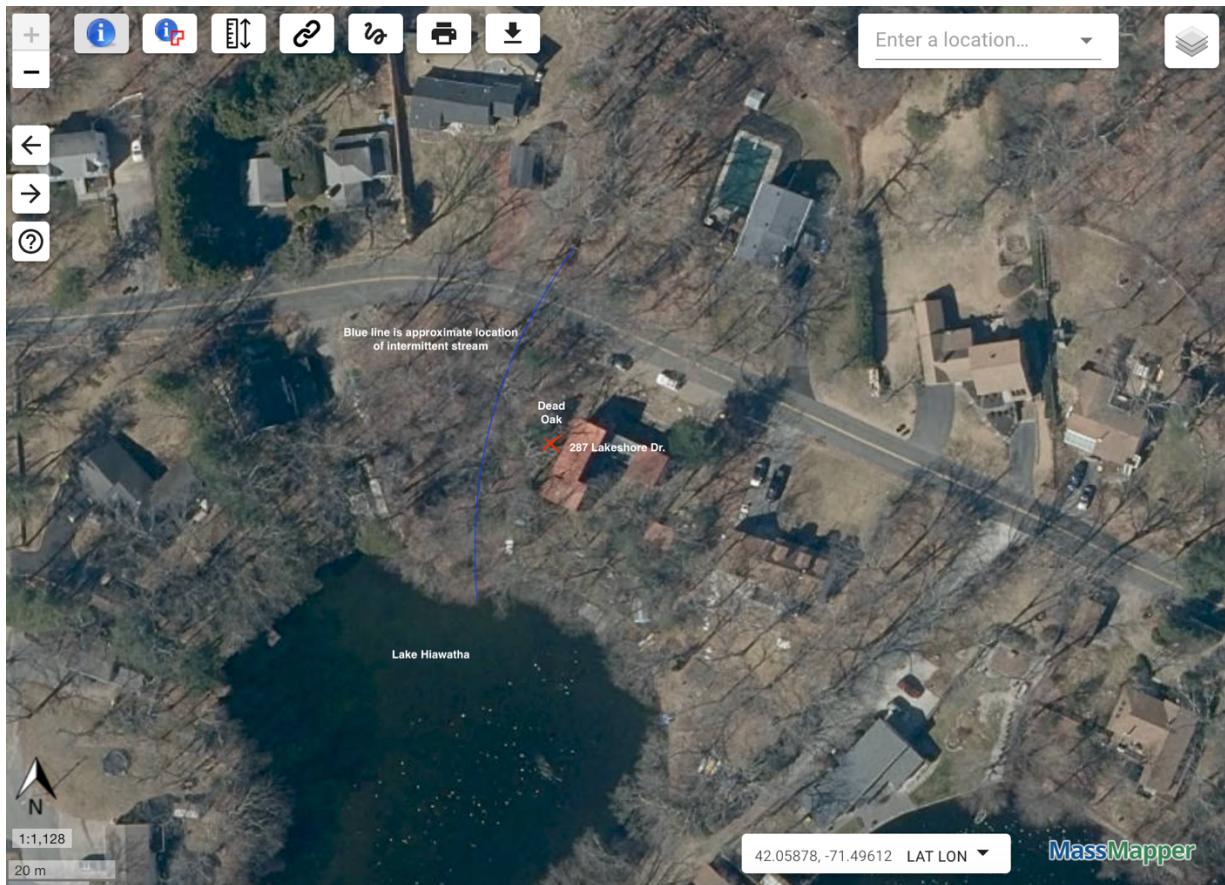


The dead oak tree has already dropped numerous limbs which have fallen on our roof. I have collected and stacked them in a pile since January 2025.



#### **LOCATION OF TREE IN RELATIONSHIP TO WETLAND AREAS**

The oak is located in a moss-and-natural-greenery-landscaped area. It is located 69 feet from the bank of Lake Hiawatha and about 20 feet from an intermittent stream. In the aerial view below, the red "X" marks the approximate location of the dead oak tree, and the blue line marks the approximate placement of the intermittent stream. Additionally, the oak tree is within 15 feet of wetland vegetation (skunk cabbage).



## WORK IN ADDITION TO DEAD OAK TREE

In addition to the removal of the dead oak, we would like to have the tree climber safety prune by removing dead limbs from several trees. These trees are located between 15 and 70 feet of Lake Hiawatha and 50 to 100 feet from the intermittent stream. Example pictures located below with red arrows pointing to dead limbs.

