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Saul Passe, Arborist  
Bureau of Highways  
111 W. Chesapeake Ave.  
Towson, MD 21204

June 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Passe,

Your office has recently sent the attached letter to property owners along Hess and Hutchins Mills Roads in Monkton. This area is densely populated with conservation easements and it is within My Lady's Manor, a designated Historic District by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Maryland Environmental Trust, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Rural Legacy Program, and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation are some of the easement holders in this area that should be consulted in addition to property owners. The Manor Conservancy can not grant permission to cut trees unless doing so promotes easement conservation values.

It is the mission of The Manor Conservancy to conserve "the rural nature" of NE Baltimore and NW Harford Counties. Scenic areas and viewsheds are critical conservation values of this area. Millions of taxpayers dollars have been invested in this area through the purchase or donation of perpetual easements held by State and County governments, the Maryland Environmental Trust, and The Manor Conservancy, each of which is required to preserve and protect those conservation values.

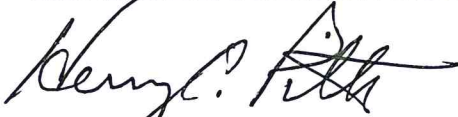
The County has a right of way by prescription on these roads. Originally these were dirt roads. The County paved the roads, then filled in the gutters, and then paved over the guttered area. The lack of gutters erodes the banks, and when the road is repaved it is widened incrementally. Rest assured, none of these two hundred year old trees has moved into the road, but rather the County has been widening the road that may now encroach on the trees.

Should the current roads interfere with thru traffic, the County could employ enhanced traffic enforcement, traffic calming measures, closure of the roads to thru trucks, reduced speed limits and the addition of signs warning of narrow and winding roads.

Most importantly, Baltimore County has legislation commonly referred to as "Rural Roads Legislation". This legislation mandates that public community meetings be held on all matters affecting rural roads and that the County defer to the least intrusive measures possible and in keeping with the rural nature of these roads when work is proposed. This legislation was followed and resulted in the Hess Road bridge being replaced with a similar structure rather than a two-lane concrete structure without calming turns on each approach to the bridge. The current proposed tree cutting program was not part of the recent annual open house held on April 28 at the County Ag Center. The County Department of Public Works must comply with the Baltimore County Rural Roads legislation.

Please feel free to contact me so that we may view these roads in person and talk to the local residents. Everyone wants safe roads and I am sure we can keep these roads safe without changing the rural character of our rural roads and countryside.

Sincerely,  
THE MANOR CONSERVANCY



Henry Pitts  
President

Cc: Wade Kach, Councilman, District 3  
Kevin Kamenetz, County Executive  
Eduard Adams, Director DPW  
Joe Ward, Miles and Stockbridge LLP

enclosure



KEVIN KAMENETZ  
County Executive

EDWARD C. ADAMS, JR., *Director*  
Department of Public Works

June 5, 2015

Thorne & Hanna Gould  
3722 Hess Road  
Monkton, MD 21111

Dear Thorne & Hanna Gould,

Due to the volume of complaints that have been received in our office, the Bureau of Highways has decided to remove several dangerous trees along Hess Road. You are receiving this letter because many of these trees, though they are roadside, are located on private property; therefore, it is imperative that our office obtain your permission before the work begins. The trees that are on our list to be removed have been marked [with an orange dot].

Please keep in mind that Baltimore County is removing these trees as a courtesy; if permission is not granted for us to remove the tree, you, as the property owner, are liable for any/all damages that may occur as a result of the tree located on your property.

If you agree to allow the Baltimore County Bureau of Highways employees and/or our contractors to enter your property for the purpose of removing any dangerous trees, please sign below and return to our office **no later than July 10, 2015**. This may be returned either by email ([spasse@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:spasse@baltimorecountymd.gov)), fax (410-887-5656) or by mail (Bureau of Highways, 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Rm G26, Towson, MD 21204).

Please feel free to contact our office at 410-887-3560 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Saul I. Passe", is written over a horizontal line.

Saul I. Passe, Arborist  
Bureau of Highways

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Property Owner PRINTED NAME

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Property Owner SIGNATURE