

## The Copper Beech

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### To Our Community:

We were devastated to learn from two independent Arborists that our majestic Copper Beech tree was dying. For the past 6 months, our friend and Architect Fred Bland has been helping us design our new home and landscape plan around this magnificent tree. The tree was to be the centerpiece, anchoring our home and life in beautiful Stony Creek.

The Arborists believe the root system of the tree must have been severely damaged and severed years ago, and according to the arborists, the Copper Beech dies very slowly and it takes years to show evidence. Mary Richardson, who previously lived at 6 Wallace Road, shared that the town took three feet of road frontage from her property and 240 Thimble Island Road. The Arborists believe that is what killed the tree. Regardless of the cause, the loss for us and for the community is palpable.

We would like to share that for the past 20 years, Terri has run the largest reforestation program in Costa Rica. Her non-profit organization hosts students and researchers from around the world - trees are the 'mission' of the non-profit. Through their work, they have protected two endangered species of birds, and grown and distributed 27,000 trees annually, throughout the Monteverde region of Costa Rica. So, we stand with you in your sorrow over the loss of the Copper Beech.

We asked Paul Blackstone to take the largest pieces of the tree to a woodworker. If the wood is deemed safe and strong, we hope to have something made that we can return to the property – perhaps a table – and we would like to offer the same for the town. If there is interest, we would like to donate benches and/or a table for public use.

Thank you for your time and understanding.