

## FMW Renovation Update

June 24, 2018

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow  
 Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,  
 You cannot say, or guess, for you know only  
 A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,  
 And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,  
 And the dry stone no sound of water.

— T.S. Eliot

Monday 

The day begins with the posting of our official No Parking sign, which will allow room for large trucks to get onto the site.



Which they did . . .



By day's end, the big, green Quaker House hackberry tree was only a memory.



We receive a computer notice that, after only two weeks and a year, our building permit is approved and can be picked up.

**Wednesday** 

We begin the day by picking up our Building Permit from DCRA. The remaining fees are more modest than anticipated.

We have our biweekly project meeting and discuss progress, while the back garden becomes less and less familiar:



**Tuesday**



DCRA	
<b>Eplan Review Approval Notification</b>	
<b>Attention: Richard,</b>	
Thank you for using the City of Washington DC ePlan Review System. Congratulations, Permit Application "B1709179" has passed the eplan review process.	
In order to receive your permit and begin work, please come to DCRA 1100 4th St, SW - 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20024. Get a ticket number for the issuance counter. If applicable, the issuance staff will provide you with an invoice for the final payment. If you wish to pay online or want to know the exact amount due before picking up your permit, please contact the Permit Division by emailing <a href="mailto:Sarah.Bouldin-Carr@dc.gov">Sarah.Bouldin-Carr@dc.gov</a> . <b>All fees must be paid prior to permit issuance.</b>	
Please print this notification to accompany your cash or check payment if you will be submitting payment in person. After your permit is issued, you will receive a notification and the ability to download and print the plans from project <b>B1709179</b> .	
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>B1709179</b>
<b>Task Assignment:</b>	<b>NotifyPlanApproved</b>
<b><a href="#">Project Access</a>   <a href="#">Login To ProjectDox</a></b>	
<small>@ 2014 Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs</small>	

The construction crew knocks on the Costa Rican Embassy door to let them know that they will soon (two or three weeks) be installing the new drain in the corner of the Embassy grounds to help divert the storm water that has previously bubbled up in our Assembly Room.

Thursday 

The crew chews into the concrete trench through which we always came and went when we emerged from the Assembly Room.

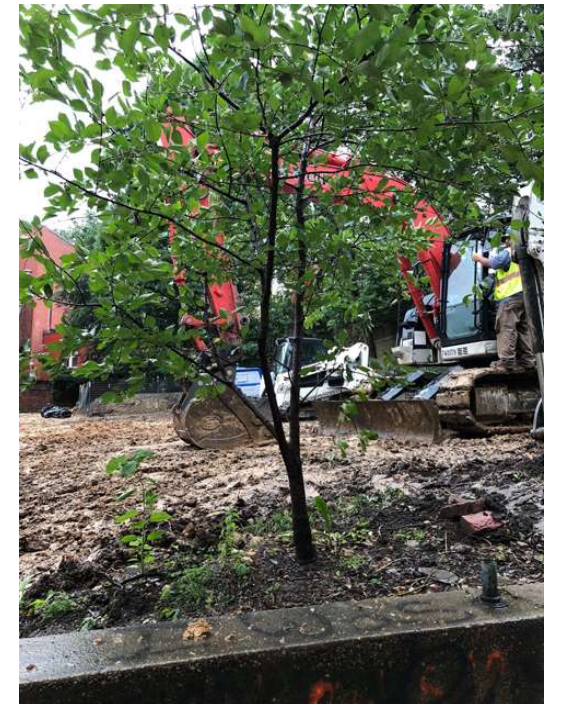


The Assembly Room door emerges into the light, as the ground recedes.



Thanks to forgiving weather and no unexpected problems, the digging is a bit ahead of schedule and the contractors are hurrying to schedule the next steps and get drainage components and steel pilings on site.

The cherry tree still stands, because it has captured the heart of a kindly excavator operator, who plans to give it a good home. He also wanted the small apple tree, but when they dug it up, they found the roots had not grown well.



Friday 

A rainy day, not good for playing in the mud.

The excavators poked moodily at the rubble and went home.



### Looking Ahead

Decent weather is forecast for the beginning of next week.

The next stages involve some restricted work at the far edges of the job that have to be gotten out of the way.

Not much more excavation can take place without shoring — propping up the ground to hold it back while the retaining walls are placed.

The first stage of that work involves drilling into the ground and inserting steel pilings and cement to support the shoring. We hope that the ground will allow itself to be drilled into and does not contain too many inconvenient boulders.

