What is the tree protection ordinance?
It is Article 9.2, “Tree Protection and Preservation” of the Town of Meggett Zoning and Land Development Ordinance (ZLDR).

What is a Grand Tree?
A Live Oak measuring 24” or greater diameter breast height (DBH). All Grand Trees are prohibited from removal unless a Grand Tree Removal Permit is issued.

What is diameter breast height (DBH)?
The total diameter, in inches, of a tree trunk or trunks measured 4 ½’ above existing grade at the base of the tree.

Do I need a permit to clear my land for development?
Yes, before clearing any piece of land, you must notify the Town of Meggett Zoning/Planning Department and obtain a Zoning Permit.

What do I need to obtain a Zoning Permit?
A tree survey drawn to an engineer’s scale on a site plan or a preliminary plat including the location and size of all Grand Trees.

Can I do my own survey?
A licensed Engineer, Land Surveyor, Registered Landscape Architect, or Certified Arborist must do the survey.

I have a Grand Tree that appears to be in bad health, do I need permission to remove it?
Yes, generally if a Grand Tree is in poor health or poses an imminent threat to public safety, a Grand Tree Removal Permit may be approved by Staff.

I have a Grand Tree, which is healthy, but I want to remove it, can it be removed?
To remove a healthy Grand Tree, a variance request must be submitted to the Town of Meggett Board of Zoning Appeals, where it must be proved that the tree presents a hardship. The requested Grand Tree(s) may be removed only where approved by the Board. The Board may require replacement trees.

If I cut down a healthy Grand Tree what will happen?
Removing a Grand Tree without Permit approval would constitute a Zoning Violation. Where Grand Trees have been removed, trees shall be replaced in accordance with a replacement schedule approved by the Planning Director. The combined caliper of replacement trees may be equal to or 3 times the DBH of the Grand Tree. Additionally, a court summons may be issued to the property owner.

What about Forestry Operations, do I need a Zoning Permit to harvest the timber on my property?
Section 48-23-205 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina was approved on June 2, 2009. This amendment provides regulations, definitions, conditions, and exemptions for forestry activities. All forestry activities must meet the requirements of Section 48-23-205 in order to qualify for an exemption from local regulations and/or permitting stipulated by this amendment. In order to administer the provisions of Section 48-23-205, and give forestry activities the benefit of the exemption from local regulations, the Town of Meggett is requesting that any company or individual planning timber harvesting contact the Zoning/Planning Department prior to commencing the harvest. A 5 year deferral of all permits may be applied to the property under this exemption.

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