

Waterbury Tree Committee

March 15, 2018 Meeting

Draft Minutes

Waterbury Municipal Center, Steele Community Room – 11:30 am

Present: Jane Brown, Chuck Kletecka, Steve Lotspeich, Barbara Blauvelt, Stuart Whitney

Meredith Whitney, UVM Extension

Ash Inventory. Meredith briefed the committee on the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer that has infected ash trees in a northern section of the Town of Orange near Barre Town. Infected trees were discovered by a private forester in a private forest and he then notified the state Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the UVM Extension office. Meredith was part of a team that followed up in the field on President's Day weekend to document the infestation. This is the first positive identification of Emerald Ash Borer in Vermont.

Meredith showed the committee members pictures of the surface evidence of infestation that is shaving off the surface of the bark by woodpeckers in order to allow them to feed on the larva. She also showed pictures of the serpentine channels that the larva make in the cambium layer of the tree which will eventually kill the tree. The larva typically feed from the top of the tree down.

Meredith brought two iPads that have the aerial photos of the Town of Waterbury with the E-911 esite/building data included for orientation, that was compiled in GIS by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. She tutored the group on how to use the iPads to do the inventory. She gave us the user name and password for the inventory software that is loaded on the iPads along with the code to unlock the devices. She described the process for periodically downloading the data to the central database for the Emerald Ash Borer inventories. Meredith loaned one of the iPads to the town in order to facilitate accomplishing the inventory in the coming weeks. Steve will keep that iPad in the town clerk's vault and it is available to loan to Tree Committee members as needed.

The group drove to Little River Rd. in the vicinity of the snow machine parking area. The group walked up Little River Rd. inventorying the ash trees in the town's three rod or 49.5' wide right-of-way. We were all surprised by the unusually high percentage of ash trees in the town right-of-way which in many areas is at least 50% of the trees within the right-of-way. Teams of Tree Committee members will arrange times to do designated sections of the town roads in Waterbury. It was agreed that we will e-mail each other with the locations that we are inventorying to avoid duplication.

Arbor Day Trainings. Members were encouraged to register for the Arbor Day conference that will be held at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier on Thursday May 3rd. The town may be able to pay the registration fee for Tree Committee members that would like to attend. See Jane and Steve for additional information.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm. **Next meeting date is to be determined.**

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lotspeich