

Waterbury Tree Committee

November 8, 2018 Meeting

Draft Minutes

Waterbury Municipal Center, Steele Community Room – 5:30 pm

Present: Jane Brown, Barbara Blauvelt, Stuart Whitney, Karen Maurice, Steve Lotspeich,

Regular Committee Meeting Times. It was agreed to meet on first Tuesdays at 5:30pm. It is preferred to meet in one of the smaller meeting rooms in the library. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4th at 5:30pm in the library.

Emerald Ash Borer - Inventory and Plan. UVM Extension is holding a training on Wednesday, November 28th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the UVM Extension offices at 327 Rt. 302 in Barre on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Stuart and Meredith inventoried ash trees on Shaw Mansion Rd. from Kneeland Flats to the top of the hill north of the big dip. They identified approximately 65 ash trees along this section of the road. At least half of the ash trees are in fair or poor condition. They found no evidence of EAB. There are ash trees planted in the Shaw's and Community National Bank parking lots in Colbyville. We should reach out to those property owners and suggest that they inoculate the trees for EAB. One of the issues is that it is difficult to detect the EAB in its early stages because the insects start feeding in the top of the tree. It is much more expensive and dangerous cutting down ash trees once they have been infected and are dying back. Rutland is implementing a plan to remove approximately 75% of their ash trees. In some areas in New York state, insurance rates are going up for properties that have ash trees.

It was agreed to discuss developing an EAB Management Plan at the December meeting. The EAB moves naturally about 1-2 miles per year. It takes about 4-5 years for an infected tree to die. People who have ash in their woodlots are harvesting and marketing them before they get infected. It was agreed to look at the management plans that other towns have developed. Jane will touch base with Elise Schadler to get examples of EAB management plans from other communities that are similar to Waterbury. There is grant funding that will be made available

by the state Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Jane will distribute a link to this EAB Municipal Planning Grant Program that is already available. \$40,000 is available and the grants will be a maximum of \$2,000 with a 50/50 match. Grant applications are due January 31st. Eligible projects include inventories and plans. The grant application will be discussed at our December meeting. Steve will draft a scope of work for the grant application for review at the December meeting.

Tree budget for 2019. The Tree Maintenance budget that is under the Highway Department is \$4,000 for 2018. The Committee would like to recommend the addition of funds for pruning and planting for 2019. We will need to budget the match for the EAB Municipal Planning grant. We will develop the dollar figures for these items at the December meeting.

Tree Planting for 2019. Barb will check the plastic tree guards on the newer maples and crabapples. The ones that are missing or broken should be replaced. Steve can purchase the additional guards so they can be installed before winter to protect the trunks. Jane suggested that we plant additional Burr Oaks at the Maple St. Cemetery in the spring to complete the row that has been started. They are available as bare root stock from a nursery in the Intervale in Burlington. She would like to have two more Catalpa's planted in the cemetery as well.

Next meeting date: December 4th at 5:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lotspeich