

## Waterbury Tree Committee

December 4, 2018 Meeting

Draft Minutes

Waterbury Municipal Center, Library Meeting Room

Present: Jane Brown, Barbara Blauvelt, Jack Carter, Chuck Kletecka, Steve Lotspeich

**Emerald Ash Borer - Inventory and Plan.** The state Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Caring for Canopy grant program for 2019 is dedicated to projects relating to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The \$2,000 grants can be used for ash tree inventories, EAB preparedness and management plans, and planting trees where ash trees are removed. The grants require an equal 50/50 match that can be either cash or in-kind services. The grant applications are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Steve presented a project description for a potential grant application that would have two components: completion of our roadside ash tree inventory and preparation of an EAB preparedness plan.

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) has funding to assist municipalities with ash tree inventories and GIS mapping, and the preparation of EAB plans. CVRPC has funding through a federal transportation planning program (TIP) and emergency management funding for these EAB related projects. Steve will find out from Danielle Fitzko if the CVRPC's federally funded assistance can be a match for the state Dept. of FPR's federal USDA Forest Service funding for the Caring for Canopy grant program. Steve recommends having the CVRPC assist with completing the inventory and mapping the results. The EAB preparedness plan could be prepared with assistance from either CVRPC or a private consultant.

Steve and Jane presented some of the information that was shared at the EAB training that was held at the UVM Extension offices in Barre on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was excellent and covered many aspects of the EAB and the status of the current infestation in Vermont. The time frame for a local infestation was discussed. It usually takes about four years for an ash tree to die from EAB after the initial infestation. It is very difficult to detect the early infestation because it starts at the top of the tree. The EAB infestation starts

diminishing in the fourth or fifth year of the infestation and has a minimal presence in year ten even though there is enough EAB present to infest new younger trees.

The issue of cost of removing infested ash trees was discussed. It is typically much more expensive to remove a dead ash tree than a live tree because the dead trees are very brittle and shatter on the ground when they fall. It is effective to treat ash trees systemically with insecticide for EAB though the treatment must be done every two to three years to be effective.

**Tree budget for 2019.** The Tree Maintenance budget that is under the Highway Department is \$4,000 for 2018. In the past this budget has been used entirely for tree maintenance, pruning and tree removal. We would like pruning of the two older crabapples at the Center Green as well as the birch and evergreen at the northern end of the green to be included in the 2019 maintenance. There is also one large shade tree at Rusty Parker Park facing the Peoples Bank that should be evaluated by an arborist and may need to be removed and replaced.

The Committee / WTC would like to recommend \$4000 for 2019 for new tree planting town wide noting that the 2019 Caring for Canopy grant program will be dedicated exclusively to towns for EAB preparedness planning. We expect that these new trees would all be planted by a contractor. The unit price for planting by a contractor could range between \$200 and 400 depending on types and sizes of trees and whether watering and maintenance is included. We would hope to have between 12 and 14 trees planted town-wide. We would complete the exact list of new trees in May of 2019 for spring and fall planting but outline some immediate needs below.

In the village of Waterbury, we would like to plant several new trees on side streets starting with Winooski and Union Streets. The 2017 Waterbury village street tree inventory showed a need for shade trees on these side streets off Main Street. The WTC will conduct a site walk to determine exact locations and work with adjacent homeowners for agreement and maintenance. In addition, a few trees are needed at Newton Baker Park to complete the park restoration.

In Waterbury Center, at Hope Davey Park replacement of several trees is needed due to poor condition from those planted back in about 1995 when the playground area was improved.

We will continue working with the Cemetery Commission to plant a few shade trees and 7 or 8 smaller Burr Oak trees at the Maple Street Cemetery. We also talked about planting some columnar or similar, small flowering trees at the Old Center Cemetery. We expect that funding could come from the Cemetery Commission budget. Both cemeteries have new signage planned for 2019. It may be necessary for funding for a few new trees at each cemetery to come from the Waterbury Tree Committee budget.

**Tree Planting for 2019.**

**Next meeting date:** January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lotspeich/Jane Brown