

Waterbury Tree Committee

May 22, 2019 Meeting

Waterbury Public Library – 5:30 PM

Present: Steve Lotspeich, Jane Brown, Barb Blauvelt

Minutes of April 17th meeting were approved with the correction to the spelling of Danielle Fitzko's name. The following items in the minutes were discussed: Regarding a tree planting program, the Tree Committee should present a multi-year program to the Select Board with an annual budget. The plan should include re-planting the trees at Hope Davey Park that are in poor condition or have already died. The problems with the sites of these trees include high seasonal ground water, compacted soil plus possible weed whacker damage when the trees were young.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The roadside ash tree inventory should include a Friday to accommodate Jane's work schedule. We should avoid the week of July 4th due to the Thursday holiday and people taking Friday off. Regarding the EAB Preparedness/Management Plan, we should evaluate the existing ash trees along the south end of S. Main St. to determine if they are worth saving and treating for EAB with systemic insecticide or should be removed. It is possible that they might be removed as part of the Main St. Reconstruction project with permission through the Section 106 Historic Preservation Act permit process.

Arbor Day Conference. The conference was held at the College of Fine Arts in Montpelier on May 2nd and Jane, Karen, and Steve attended. It was agreed that the conference was very worthwhile. There were a number of workshops on EAB preparedness, management, and inventorying. The communities that have EAB present in their ash trees seemed better organized, more pro-active, and less alarmed than they were at the Arbor Day Conference last year. The recommendations included developing a budget for ash tree removal and insecticide treatment. It is much more cost effective to remove the trees when they are alive before they die and become brittle. The cities of Rutland and Montpelier are having their maintenance staff strained to do the insecticide treatment to save money.

Street Tree Inventory / Vacant Tree Planting Sites. Updating our street tree inventories was discussed. The tree inventory software available through the state's urban forestry program for use on iPads can be used to identify vacant tree sites for the future planting of street trees. The issue of the Town concentrating on tree plantings on Winooski Street and Union Street and identifying possible tree planting sites was discussed. It was agreed that we need to talk to Elise Schadler about model easement language for planting sites on private property outside the street rights-of-way. Those in attendance walked Winooski St. and identified the following possible tree planting sites: These are all subject to discussion and agreement with the property owners.

11 Winooski St.: site to right of driveway for a spreading shade tree.

13 Winooski St.: site to right of driveway for a columnar shade tree.

19 Winooski St.: replace dead spruce with shade tree.

23 Winooski St.: two existing mature ash could be replaced with two shade trees of a different species due to EAB.

27 Winooski St.: one existing mature ash could be replaced with one or two shade trees of a different species due to EAB.

29 Winooski St.: could add shade trees. Two nice mature flowering crabapples are in front yard.

Front of Green Mountain Power property near the community gardens: Could plant 4-5 shade trees.

Dascomb Rowe Field: Street trees could be added behind the existing boundaries. The area of compacted gravel would need to be re-done with decent soil. Additional tree planting could go in along the driveway into the park.

Hope Cemetery: Medium size trees could go in at southwestern end along the street. These could be large crabapples near the utility lines.

22 Winooski St.: House is at corner with Adams Ct. adjacent to the Hope Cemetery and could use a shade tree.

12 Winooski St.: Flowering tree could go in under utility lines where previously planted street tree died.

8 Winooski St.: Flowering tree could go in under utility lines.

6 Winooski St.: Existing crabapple needs to be pruned. A matching crabapple could be planted.

24 North Main St.: Shade or flowering tree could be added to right of parking area on Winooski St. It shouldn't shade the existing lilacs. Autumn Blaze Maple on North Main side needs to be pruned around power lines.

Next Meeting – In lieu of a meeting, dates should be scheduled for roadside ash tree inventory with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission staff.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lotspeich