

April 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes - Waterbury Tree Board

Steele Community Room, Waterbury Town Offices – Noon to 1:30 PM

4/18 Agenda: Approved with no changes

March 11, 2024 Tree Board Meeting Minutes: Approved

Public Comments: Attendees: Rene Bouchard, Selectboard Chair, Roxbury VT attended the meeting to learn more about response to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Invited guests Jeff Spear, arborist, Acer Tree Waterbury Center and Adam McCullough, arborist with VT Urban and Community Forestry program

Roundtable discussion on Emerald Ash borer / EAB

Background - Diagnosed in VT over 7 years ago in Plainfield VT, EAB spread to neighboring towns. In Waterbury, EAB was detected in 2024 and confirmed in 2025. One infested large (30 inch diameter) Ash was removed recently at 138 So. Main St, by Green Mountain Power.

The EA borers destroy the inner structure of the tree, making it brittle and expensive and dangerous to climb for removal. When upper branches are defoliated and with lighter color bark (called blanding), the Ash tree declines quickly and dies. Smaller diameter Ash are not impacted by the borers. Injecting trees every two years is a safe and effective preventative measure. It can be part of a strategy for preserving selected, healthy Ash. Three Ash trees in Waterbury have been injected to prevent infestation over the last 6 years: One at Hope Cemetery, Two are Hope Davey Park.

Preparedness plan for Emerald Ash Borer. The town Tree Committee worked with Redstart Inc to complete an EAB Preparedness Plan in March of 2020. See Recommended management Practices p. 1

Some Ash trees were identified and removed on rural roads and donated for firewood. Three larger Ash in Waterbury have been inoculated bi-annually over the last 5 years. The Ash trees on S. Main St. (5) and Park Row (2) were not identified until 2024 so were not previously considered for treatment.

Waterbury is considering options now. The annual budget for treework and planting is a factor (\$8000 for 2025)

Estimates to inoculate the Green Ash trees on S. Main Street and Park Row were received. An estimate to remove Ash trees has also been received.

Discussion / info Arborist Adam McCullough VT Urban and Community Forestry program gave his perspective on the spread and potential impact with 3 options to consider. **SLOW** the spread, **SAFETY** and **AFFORDABILITY**. In his opinion a town can realistically get 2 of these 3 2options. Jeff Spear of Acer tree offered his experience with EAB and with the option for injection of selected, healthy Ash trees at a relatively low cost compared to removal. Injection is about \$10 per inch of diameter. A 30 inch tree is \$300 - every two years. Ash trees could be injected to prevent EAB while other options are phased in, such as replacement by planting new shade trees along a street and then paying for removal of Ash periodically since the cost for removal is very high e.g. \$2000 to \$3000 or more.

Rural Roads in Waterbury - EAB is likely present on back roads based on arborist observations.

Tree City USA: The application was approved. A plaque and banner were received by the Town from the National Arbor Day Association for display - no dates

Arbor Day / Memorial Tree Planting, Saturday May 24th 1 PM - The garden area next to the library parking lot.) WTB members will select and pick up the Little Leaf Linden tree. We are organizing and will publicize the event. We have invited the family of Steve Lotspeitch. The plaque was ordered by Barb who will be reimbursed by the Town. Barb has selected a stone for the plaque. Holes will need to be drilled into it. Marge will look into a 12' x 12' tent from the library for refreshments. We decided we will each bring cookies and brownies. Jane will look into donated cider by Cold Hollow Cider Mill.

Next Waterbury Tree Board Meeting on May 6 at 5:30 PM- Publicity and invitations will be finalized.

The meeting adjourned - 1:30 P M