

Tree Warden Notes

March 9, 2016 to April 12, 2016

March 9

I took a look at the Depot Street Park, located on the bank of the Connecticut River just south of the bridge to New Hampshire on Route 119. I emailed my thoughts to interested parties: Rod Francis, Carol Lollate, Paul Ethier, Dylan Mackinnon, and Bob Everingham on how the area should be treated in regards to existing and future tree plantings there. That email is reproduced below:

Hi Rod;

I took a look at the Depot Street Park site again this morning. I have a few thoughts;

There is a Norway maple just upstream from the white birch, a young sycamore just downstream from the white birch, and 2 black locusts downstream a bit further. These trees, as with the poplar that is with the white birch, are growing right at the river bank's edge. If a tree in that position uproots it will take a large chunk of bank with it. The river can then cause more of the bank to erode. Repairing the bank, if that should happen, would be difficult and expensive. You might consider taking those 4 trees out, or at least the 2 either side of the white birch, along with the poplar.

If you are concerned about bank erosion, I would suggest that you contact Jolene Hamilton at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office here in Brattleboro. 254-9766. Jolene does a plant sale every spring. She can get many different types of plants, shrubs, and small trees that are specifically used for stabilizing stream banks. The cost is reasonable and she can get a wholesale price if ordered in bulk.

Sycamores, if planted at the base of the drop off from the park, would be on the park side of the power lines. They would help to hide the power lines when they get larger. Trimming them to keep them away from the lines would not be seen from the park. That seems like a good choice. But if you are concerned about the trees getting into the lines you could also plant short trees, of which there are many varieties. Dylan Mackinnon and Bob Everingham could give you a list. The Brattleboro Tree Board volunteers often plant a tree called Amelanchier, also called shadbush or serviceberry. They are native to this area and are often found along stream banks. They flower very early in the spring, before most everything else. They grow to around 35', depending upon what cultivar you get. The trees along Flat Street, at the Preston Lot, across from Experienced Goods and Dotty's, are Amelanchier.

Hope this helps. Thanks for beautifying an ugly stretch of a beautiful river. Kudos to you and your team.

**Dan Adams
Town Tree Warden**

March 16

Hannah O'Connell from Public Works (DPW) emailed me to ask for my thoughts on a large silver maple tree at 81 Clark Avenue that is in the town's right of way. I took a look at the tree and decided that it is hazardous to the public and should be removed. I emailed Hannah to let her know my thoughts on the silver maple as well as to suggest that trees be planted there to replace the silver maple.

March 31

I met DPW execs Hannah O'Connell, Steve Barrett, and Ryan Kaulbach at 81 Clark Avenue to have a second look at the large silver maple in question and the possibility of planting more trees there in the town's right of way. The home owners of 81 Clark Ave joined us. We all agreed that the silver maple should be removed and that more trees should be planted there. The species of trees to be planted should be of those that will not reach the overhead wires at maturity.

We then took a look at another large silver maple on the same property, in the town's right of way, but around the corner on Allen Street. After careful observation I found this tree to be hazardous to the public as well and recommended its removal.

DPW execs and I discussed a possible future tree(s) planting on the Whetstone Brook side of the corner of Elm Street and Frost Street. All is cleared for planting trees there. We also discussed the planting of a memorial tree on the Whetstone Pathway as well as the possibility of planting trees between the parking garage and Elliot Street, across from the fire station.

April 8

Hannah O'Connell emailed me to say that she was contacted by the home owner of 10 Harris Avenue. The home owner is concerned about twigs and limbs falling from a very large sycamore tree on the property, in the town's right of way. I took a look at the tree and found that it is indeed dropping branch tips and occasionally larger dead limbs from its crown. I deemed this to be normal, the tree looks to be healthy, and there is no 'target' for the larger dead limbs to fall upon other than the street. With that said I recommended leaving the tree as is unless someone wants to go to the expense of 'dead wooding' the tree's crown. But I don't feel that the expense of 'dead wooding' the tree's crown is justified at this time.

Dan Adams
Consultant Forester
Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

cc Jan Anderson - Town Manager's Office
Steve Barrett, Hannah O'Connell, Ryan Kaulbach, and Al Franklin - DPW