

Tree Warden Notes

March 13 to April 9, 2013

March 18, 2013

I had a look at Barbara Kono's roadside tree at her house, 1137 Upper Dummerston Road. It is a large sugar maple. Barbara is concerned that it might fall on her house. There is rotting roots on the west side of the tree that is away from the house. I showed her the rotting roots and also noted that winds most often come from the west and that a strong west wind could possibly blow the tree toward her house if the roots gave way. I also pointed out that the root system on the east side, toward her house, is massive and could support this tree from being blown over. I then noted that there is one very large lower limb of the tree that reaches toward the house, weighting the tree in that direction. My advice was to remove the tree or remove the large lower limb that weights the tree toward the house.

I then had a look at the sizable Norway maple that sits on the front lawn of the Centre Congregational Church at 193 Main Street here in Brattleboro. The tree is multi-stemmed at 6 or 7 feet from ground level. The trunk is split from there to the ground. A large bolt has been inserted to help keep the split from falling apart. 3 cables have been inserted in the crown to also hold the tree together. It is not a town tree but belongs to the church. The tree would cause little damage, except to the lawn or hedge or a nearby small tree or a person, if standing under it, if it fell. I have no recommendation for the tree at this time.

March 19, 2013

I sent emails. One to Paul Ethier, Brattleboro Parks and Recreation, concerning the possibility of planting trees this year on town properties that are under his purview. Another to Bob Everingham, Jim Esden, Danielle Fitzko, Caitlin Cusack, all Tree Board members, and all Brattleboro Forest Pest First Detectors. The email was a compilation of other emails from various State and town employees concerning the preparation of a 'Community Preparedness Plan' that would direct actions here in Brattleboro in the event of an infestation of invasive insects that attack trees. The email also discussed possible grant money that could be available for that endeavor.

I also sent an email to Jim Esden, State Forester. I gave Jim the contact information for the Executive Director of the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD), Bob Spenser. In the email I outlined what I have done to date in attempting to get a burn pit set up at the dump site on Old Ferry Road here in Brattleboro so that infected/infested tree parts could be incinerated. Jim emailed me back to say that he would contact Bob and would see what he could do to make the burn pit happen.

March 20, 2013

I received an email from Paul Ethier asking me to have a look at the remaining trees that are growing along the Connecticut River bank at Union Station Park.

April 2, 2013

I had a look at the Union Station trees on the river bank and found that most of them are being smothered by vines and that, if released from the vines and left to grow, these trees would jeopardize the river bank in the future should they uproot. Uprooting is a real possibility for trees growing on that steep bank with the exception of a large white birch tree that is growing within a cement enclosure on the bank. I advised Paul to remove all trees with the exception of the white birch. I then advised Paul to contact the Natural Resources Conservation District of Windham County (NRCD) to get input on what to plant along the bank to help retain it in the future. I also noted that NRCD may have funds left over from Hurricane Irene, or may have other funding that could be used in the project.

April 3, 2013

I met with Bob Everingham, Forest Pest First Detector, and John Orgozalek, graduate student at Antioch College in Keene. We discussed the preparation of a 'Community Preparedness Plan'. I then sent out a flurry of emails to Bob Everingham, Jim Esden, Danielle Fitzko, Caitlin Cusack, all Tree Board members, and all Brattleboro Forest Pest First Detectors, and various town employees. Emails were in relation to a number of different aspects of the preparation of a 'Community Preparedness Plan' including grant money and the interest of yet another Antioch graduate student that may want to help with the project.

April 8, 2013

I received an email from Lynn Levine, a private consultant forester, asking me to propose to the Tree Board the possibility of applying for a grant to develop another 'Treasured Tree' walk here in Brattleboro. Lynn developed the one existing 'Treasured Tree' walk a few years ago that covers the area north of the Post Office. Lynn is thinking that another 'Treasured Tree' walk in another part of town would be of interest to tree advocates.

April 9, 2013

I forwarded an email from the Windham County Forester that says :

Bad news on the invasive insect front.. EAB has been detected and confirmed in Concord, NH.
Sadly, Bill

Dan Adams
Consultant Forester
Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

cc Jan Anderson, Town Manager's Office