

# Tree Warden Notes

## April 13, 2016 to June 14, 2016

**April 14** I met with the manager and an owner at the Brookside Condos in West Brattleboro. They were concerned about their trees. We took a look and I gave them my 2 cents.

**May 4** I met with Rick Foley at his house on Oak Crest Lane. Rick was concerned about trees growing on his property in the town's right of way on Chestnut Hill Street. The trees were perched on a ledge about 8 feet above the street and had very little ground purchase as the soil there is very thin. I contacted DPW (Department of Public Works) and asked if they could remove the young trees before they got bigger and would require a public hearing before removal. DPW obliged and got Nichols Tree Care to remove the young trees. Rick Foley was very happy with all.

**May 13** Hannah O'Connell, DPW, contacted me about a large tree on the bank of the Whetstone Brook that could fall and impact the covered bridge in West Brattleboro. I had already deemed the tree hazardous in January of 2015 and told her so.

**May 17** DPW asked me to have a look at a sugar maple street tree, in the town's right of way, on Greenleaf Street. While I was there the homeowner and his neighbor came out to speak with me. The concern was about one large sugar maple that is dying and dropping large limbs into the street. I saw that tree and deemed it hazardous, then had a look at 3 adjoining large sugar maples as well as another down the street, all within the town's right of way. I found that all of these trees were declining rapidly. Some were hollow and others had serious structural defects. I deemed them all to be hazardous. I alerted DPW of my findings and, considering DPW's tight budget, I prioritized which trees should be removed first and which trees could be removed last.

**May 31** Hannah O'Connell, DPW, contacted me about trees at the Hilltop House nursing home on Harris Avenue.

**June 7** I met with Hannah and Cindy Jerome, Hilltop House representative. We were joined by the grounds keeper for Hilltop House. We all took a walk along Wantastiquet Drive. Hilltop House has frontage on Wantastiquet Drive and it seems that a very large white pine tree limb (leader) fell onto the street a short while back. We found that there are no Hilltop House trees that are within the town's right of way there. Cindy and the grounds keeper asked me questions about other trees on their property.

**June 8** I noticed that there are dead and dying limbs on the elm tree at the Transportation Center on Elliot Street. The tree has Dutch elm disease. Bob Everingham, tree expert and Brattleboro Tree Advisory member, has been treating the tree using an injected fungicide and 'triage' to remove infected limbs. I contacted Bob. He had seen the dead and dying limbs and recommended removing them as soon as possible. The limbs in need of removal are tangled up in high voltage wires. We need a tree surgeon that is certified in working around high voltage wires to cut the limbs away. Bob can handle the final cuts and debris removal after that, if he pleases. I contacted Chuck Mayotte today, a tree removal contractor, to ask if he would do the job. Chuck said that he would have a look and get back to me. I haven't heard back from Chuck yet.

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