

Tree Warden Notes

May 13, 2014 to August 12, 2014

5-21-2014 Tree Board members and I met at the West River Park to have a look at the existing trees and look for possible tree planting sites. We all agreed that the most probable need for trees there is along Route 30 to create a buffer for the park from the highway. Planting small trees along the highway edge would be inexpensive cost wise. A sizeable number of trees spaced down the length of the highway frontage would be best. A recruitment of volunteers would be best to get the job done.

5-29-2014 June Levinson, a resident of Dummerston, called me to report that the ginkgo on the front lawn of the Municipal Center looks dead. I had a look at the tree and yes, it is dead. I saw no physical signs that would lead me to understand what could have killed the tree. Last year the tree was perfectly healthy and doing just fine. This year it is dead ????

7-01-2014 I met Bob Everingham, a Tree Board member and arborist, as well as Jim Esden, a State Forester that works with the Urban and Community Forestry division, at the Brattleboro Select Board's meeting that evening. Bob presented his paper concerning the probable infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer to the Brattleboro area. The select board was impressed with Bob's work putting the needed information for them into an easily readable 9 page report called 'EAB Preparedness Plan Brattleboro Vermont June, 2014'. The select board gave unanimous support to Bob's plan and pledged to support future efforts to save Brattleboro's most important ash trees in the event of an EAB infestation. More information about EAB and the many tree care services that Bob can provide can be found online at Bob's website called 'All About Trees'.

7-07-2014 Erik and Caroline Hammerlund, 73 Walnut Street, Brattleboro, called me to ask if I would have a look at one of the trees on their property. I took a look and recommended some pruning be done to clean up broken limb wounds from last winter's ice damage. They had initially thought that the tree would need to be removed, but I noted that the trunk of the tree, for a good distance up from the ground, was sound.

7-15-2014 I was called by a tenant of the condominiums next to Renuze on Putney Road about a tree that had fallen on her car and did some considerable damage. She thought that it may have been a town tree. She said that the person responsible for the condo maintenance (?) had notified the town beforehand about the possibility of the tree falling on parked cars. I had a look at the area. I did not see the tree but did see that the parking area for the condos looked to be a considerable distance from the town's right of way along Putney Road, according to 'Maps On Line'. I told her to speak with public works about it and ask that they send someone out to ascertain whether or not the tree was actually in the town's right of way.

8-08-2014 Mallery Elliot, Office Administrator for the Neighborhood Schoolhouse on Western Avenue here in Brattleboro, called to ask if I would have a look at a very large red oak tree at the school that overhangs playground equipment. She was concerned that the tree might fail and drop on the equipment as well as possibly any children that might be playing there at that time. I had a look and advised her to get an arborist out there to remove dead limbs in the trees that overhang the playground area, check on the adequacy of the cable that I saw in the large red oak tree that is helping to hold the double stemmed tree together, take some limbs out of the large oak to alleviate overhanging weight, and to possible divert water that runs through the playground area and is undermining the trees there. Mallery wrote an email to the Neighborhood Schoolhouse board of directors to inform them of my findings. That email will be read to Tree Board members at our next meeting.

Dan Adams
Consultant Forester
Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

cc Jan Anderson, Town Manager's Office