

# Tree Warden Notes

## September 10 to October 14, 2014

**9-29-2014** Hannah O'Connell, Department of Public Works (DPW) called to ask if I would look at trees on town property and in the town's right of way (ROW).

**9-30-2014** I met with Steve Barrett and Al Franklin, DPW, and Chris Zappala, Windham and Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) at a building on Homestead Place that is owned by WWHT. There are 10 very large leaning oak trees on the bank 1 house lot away from the WWHT building that are on town property. Al and I marked them for removal last year because they are hazardous trees with a house for a likely target if they failed. We looked at trees on the bank behind the WWHT building and found 3 more trees, these were large black locust trees. They have serious defects with extensive rot in the trunk and would cause damage to parked cars and possibly people in the WWHT building parking lot if they failed. Al will mark these trees for removal along with the 10 oak trees that are already marked for removal. These 3 locust trees are on Brattleboro School District property.

Steve Barrett, Al Franklin, and I then went to 118 Cedar Street. The home owner there is concerned about a very large sycamore tree across the street from his house that could possibly hit his house if it failed. We found that the tree could possibly be partly within the town's ROW, but that for the most part the tree is on land presumably owned by the Brattleboro Retreat. The landowner said that he had seen a woodpecker in the tree. I looked the tree over and found it to be windfirm in its root structure and sound in its bole. My advise was to leave the tree be. I also mentioned to Steve and Al that the homeowner could possibly ask permission from the town (and the Retreat) to remove the tree but it would be at his expense and would require a public hearing.

**10-09-2014** I met with Steve Barrett and Hannah O'Connell, DPW, on Green Street to look at trees on the town owned bank between Green Street and the Harmony Parking lot. The trees in question are a cluster of 3 black locust trees of about 18 inches to 22 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). These trees would fall into the parking lot if they failed and could possibly damage cars and people. Two of the locust trees were rotten at their bases. The third locust tree, the largest of the three, had a seam up its bole from ground level where it meet the other two and had a strong lean toward the parking lot. Once the other two trees were removed the third tree would be open to the wind from the west and would have its supporting uphill root system compromised. I advised Steve and Hannah to remove all three trees. There are two young maple trees beneath and uphill from the locust trees that will hopefully fill in the space with time.

Dan Adams  
Consultant Forester  
Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

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