

Tree Warden Notes

October 14, 2015 to November 10, 2015

10-23-15 I got an email from Hannah O'Connell (DPW). Hannah alerted me to 3 separate tree issues. :

1. Green Mountain Power (GMP) wants to remove a dead tree on Ames Hill Road that is in the town's right of way, at no cost to the town.
2. Residents of the house across the street from 100 Moreland Avenue were concerned about a tree at 100 Moreland Avenue that might fall on their house.
3. 2 large locust trees on Forest Street that are in the town's right of way pose a serious threat to nearby homes and power lines and need to be removed. 3 other nearby trees will need to be removed to facilitate the operation.

10-26 & 11-1-15 I responded to Hannah's email with:

1. A totally dead tree doesn't need approval from the town tree warden to be removed. Thanks to GMP for taking care of it. Good job DPW for getting it done at no cost to the town.
2. I went there. 100 Moreland Avenue. Nobody home there or across the street. Saw no trees that posed a hazard to the neighbors. I reported this to Hannah.
3. The locust trees in question on Forest Street are hazardous. I had made that call a few years back. And again a few months back. Good to see them getting taken care of. I visited the site with 2 tree experts and an interested party. All thought that the 3 trees slated for removal to facilitate the takedown of the 2 locust trees would need to be taken out to get the job done. Sadly, this is necessary to protect nearby home owners.

10-28-15 I emailed the landscaping company that planted the new trees on Main Street last month. They are MJS Landscaping out of Keene NH. I had met one of their representatives on Main Street a few days earlier while checking out the plantings. He impressed me with his interest in the plantings. But he wasn't sure of just what future responsibilities MJS would have in regards to the newly planted trees. So my email to MJS asked the question. I got no response.

I then asked Hannah O'Connell if she knew the answer. Her response was that MJS would be expected to maintain the trees for 6 months. Seems that is consistent with VT TRANS specs.

10-29-15 I met with Patrick Moreland, assistant town manager, to look at a proposed installation of electric car charging stations in the High-Grove parking lot. Patrick and I discussed options for the installation that would not cause harm to the existing planted trees in the median there. Patrick then emailed our thoughts to Dave Ward (GMP) and others for their thoughts. Dave was positively responsive.

11-1-15 I met with the Brattleboro Tree Advisory Board and other interested parties on S.I.T property on Kipling Road. We planted trees there some years ago and went there that day to do maintenance on them. All went well.

We then visited the High-Grove lot and discussed the proposed car charging stations and the impact that will have on the existing honey locust trees there. An optional thought that hadn't been considered before was to just remove the existing trees that would be affected and replant with new trees.

After that we visited the trees on Main Street. It has been reported that the root systems of the existing honey locust trees on the east side of Main Street were treated very poorly during the reconstruction of the sidewalk last month. We could not dig down to check on the validity of the reports of root damage during sidewalk reconstruction because the project was 'finished'. Any digging there would destroy the finished product. Our group thought was to revisit the situation next spring.

To complete the report on the elm tree at the Transportation Center on Elliot Street from last month

Green Mountain Power sent their tree crew to the site a few weeks ago and pruned the elm tree. They worked under Bob Everingham's supervision. Thanks to Bob and GMP for doing that at no cost to the town. The cuts made were severe, critical, and dangerous considering the high power lines that are in close proximity to the tree. The tree has been inoculated by Bob Everingham for the Dutch elm disease. The odds of the tree surviving the disease are not good but at least the tree now has odds at this point in time.

Dan Adams
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Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

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