

Tree Warden Notes

November 12, 2014 to January 13, 2015

11-22-14

A local lawyer, Bruce Hesselbach called to ask about the tree that sits at the corner of lower Green Street and High Street. He wanted to know what species of tree it is. I took a look at the tree but could not identify it. It is a beautifully well crowned tree of about 20 inches in diameter with little or no obvious defects. I asked Bob Everingham, a local arborist and Tree Board member, to have a look at it. Bob identified the tree as a shellbark hickory. I passed that information on to Bruce Hesselbach.

11-26-14

Roz Blake, Tree Board member, called to inform me of excessive damage to trees in the Harmony and Preston parking lots from a recent snow storm. Steve Barrett and Hannah O'Connell contacted me the next day to also inform me of the damage and to alert me of a possibly hazardous tree near the end of New England Drive. In speaking with Steve I suggested that Bob Everingham be asked to tend to the tree damage in the parking lots, prune up and remove broken branches from the honey locust tree in front of the Chamber of Commerce office on Main Street, and crown thin + deadwood the elm tree next to the parking garage entrance on Elliot Street. Steve asked me to contact Bob and have Bob send him an estimate for the work. I contacted Bob, he sent an estimate, Steve hired him, Bob did the work. And a nice job Bob did. End of story.

11-27-14

I met with Hannah O'Connell to look at a tree near the end of New England Drive. It was a white pine tree of about 18 inches in diameter. The tree leaned out across New England Drive. The house across the way would have been hit by the tree if it fell. The tree had extensive rot in it's trunk. There was also a smaller secondary trunk that was poorly connected to the main trunk. I deemed the tree hazardous and Hannah said that she would get someone to take it down.

12-22-14

I met with Steve Barrett and Hannah O'Connell, Department of Public Works (DPW) in West Brattleboro behind Jewett's Plumbing. We looked at a number of trees that are on town property but are far from the public's view. These trees have a lean toward the garage, and possibly the house, of an adjacent landowner. The landowner has suggested that the town take these trees out. I found the trees to be healthy and windfirm in their root purchase. My suggestion is to let the landowner take the trees out, at his expense, if he cares to.

Steve, Hannah, and I then looked at a dead elm tree, about 16 inches in diameter, next to Jewett's Plumbing on Route 9. The tree is in the town's right of way and hangs out over the road. Pieces of the tree's crown have been falling. We decided that it would be a good idea to remove the tree as it is a danger to traffic below.

continued

1-2-15

I spoke with Sharon Solms, 180 Birge Street, Brattleboro. Sharon's property also has frontage on Baker Street. Seems that the neighbor across the street from her property on Baker Street is cropping her plants that grow out into the town's right of way. Sharon and I spoke on the phone and through emails a number of times about the situation.

1-12-15

I took a look today at Sharon Solms' property on Baker Street and found that someone has indeed been cropping her trees and shrubs where they are growing out into the town's right of way. Sharon tells me that she has asked the neighbor to desist. He says no and continues cropping her trees and shrubs. Sharon would like to ask the Town Tree Advisory Board to inform the neighbor that, according to town ordinance, he is not allowed to do that. She plans to attend the Town Tree Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, January 13th.

Dan Adams
Consultant Forester
Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

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