

# Tree Warden Notes

## September 12, 2012 to October 09, 2012

### October 3<sup>rd</sup>

I had a telephone conversation with Caitlin Cusack, VT Urban & Community Forestry Department (UCF) concerning efforts to reduce the damage that the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) infestation will cause to local urban & community hemlock shade trees in the near future. Caitlin then looked into all of my concerns and suggestions and replied with an email dated October 5<sup>th</sup>. That email is included with this report.

### October 7<sup>th</sup>

I read over Caitlin's email, compiled the parts that would be pertinent to this Tree Advisory Board meeting of October 9<sup>th</sup> and made copies for all.

### October 9<sup>th</sup>

I met with Gary King, Brattleboro Department of Public Works (BPW) to look at 16 trees that BPW would like to remove. The trees are surrounding and encroaching upon the town's 1,000,000 gallon water tank at the School for International Training (SIT) campus on Black Locust Road here in Brattleboro. The trees are blocking sun from reaching the tank and are depositing material on the top of the tank. This is causing corrosion to the tank. Removing trees that are close to the tank will also create more air circulation around the tank and that will also help to alleviate the corrosion. Some of the trees are also posing a hazard to the tank as they lean heavily towards it while others are blocking radio signals to and from the tank. The operation of the tank in supplying water to the town of Brattleboro is run and monitored by radio signals. I told Gary that it looks like removing the trees is a necessity in the continued operation of the tank. I told Gary that I will present the proposal to the Tree Advisory Board and let him know what our collective thoughts are.

### October 9<sup>th</sup>

I stopped by Agway on Putney Road to speak with them about the HWA infestation and products that homeowners/landowners could use in treating infested trees that Agway might be able to provide. I talked to Ron and told him what we, the Town Tree Warden (TTW) and the Town Tree Advisory Board (TTAB) are doing and when we will be doing it. I told him that; Tree Services and Nurseymen will be contacted soon about the infestation and how to dispose of hemlock tree parts. At that time we will recommend that they get certified as pesticide applicators. There are 7 certified pesticide applicators at this time in Windham County. More will be needed. We will be alerting the public in the spring about the infestation and that Agway can expect a number of homeowners/landowners to be looking for a product to treat infested trees with. Pesticides sprayed on the ground to be drawn up by the root system of a hemlock tree (systemic treatment) can also be drawn up by nearby hardwood trees and that may cause their flowers to become toxic to bees. We are working with the State of VT on the HWA infestation problem and if Agway is so inclined they can contact me with prospective products and I can run it by the State Urban & Community Forestry Department (UCF) to see what they think of it. Ron will inform Agway's manager of our conversation and ask that the manager give me a call.

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