

Tree Warden Notes

August 15, 2012 to September 11, 2012

August 28th & 29th Caitlin Cusack and Jim Esden, both with the State Forestry Department, emailed me to update me on what they are doing in regards to the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Jim has produced a one page document that describes how to properly dispose of HWA infested hemlock material. Also noted on that one pager is a website address where recommendations for dealing with infested trees can be found. More specifically, a 4 page document produced by the Vermont State Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation entitled 'Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Vermont: Recommendations for Landowner Response. I attempted to go to the site using the address on Jims one pager but found that the address has a problem and will not work. Jim and I are working to correct that.

Jim and Caitlin are suggesting that the town clerk be the person for landowners with HWA infested trees to contact initially. The town clerk would then refer them to phone numbers and websites for help. Jim is suggesting that we create some sort of 'HWA Hotline'. Caitlin is offering help with the initial informing of the public through news media.

September 7th Danielle Fitzko emailed me to ask if I would speak about what we are doing in regards to the HWA infestation here in Brattleboro at a Vermont Tree Stewards Conference in Randolph on Saturday October 20th. I declined. I suggested that Caitlin speak about what we are doing here. Danielle then offered to pay me for my time. I haven't replied yet.

September 10th I spoke with Bob Spenser - Executive Director of Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) about a burn pit at the Old Ferry Road dump site to incinerate HWA infested hemlock material. We had discussed this previously and I brought Mike Bucossi, Brattleboro Fire Chief, into the discussion. Bob's final thought was no, not really interested in creating a burn pit at the dump site. But he qualifies that statement with saying that if we worked on it together then maybe it could happen. Bob also suggest other avenues of disposal, one being Steve Zaluzny and another being concerns that produce mulch. I left the conversation with Bob there. I then emailed Jim Esden and Barbara Burns, Insect and Disease Specialist for the State of Vermont Forestry Department, to let them know about the conversation. They will be meeting with others over the next 2 days to discuss this need to dispose of HWA infested hemlock material in Vermont. I am hopeful that someone from the State will have further discussions with Bob Spenser about creating a burn pit.

Question – should I be sending my monthly reports somewhere ?

Dan Adams
Consultant Forester
Brattleboro Town Tree Warden

September 11th

I met with Jim Kane, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) Director. We discussed the trees at the Crowell Lot. I presented him with the Tree Risk Assessment that I did with 4 State Foresters on July 31st. The foresters and I used the USDA COMMUNITY TREE RISK EVALUATION FORM. With this assessment venue trees are evaluated and given points for certain criteria related to failure and the imminent risk of injuring people. We assessed the tree risk of all 28 trees in the park. Risk rating runs from 1 point to the maximum of 12 points with 12 being the most hazardous. 6 trees had a rating of 10 or more. I recommended the removal of those 6 hazardous trees as well as cabling and deadwooding many of the others. Jim asked what I thought the cost would be and I told him \$8,000 to \$10,000. Jim informed me that I can bill the School Board for my time spent on assessing and then implementing recommendations for the trees there at the Crowell Lot. The Brattleboro School District owns the property and the town Parks and Recreation Department uses the property for the park situated there with an agreement to maintain the property. Jim will present the information to the School Board. I may be asked to attend that meeting. Jim will also speak with the Brattleboro Selectboard about sharing the tree work cost between the Town of Brattleboro and the School District. Jim and I agreed that the best time to do the work would be this winter, when the park is rarely used. We also agreed that the public needs to be informed before the work takes place.