

The January 6, 2021 Presentation to the Peacham Selectboard
From the Peacham Tree Board

The tree board thanks the Selectboard for the opportunity to make this presentation. Our role is to work with our tree warden Neil Monteith) to manage trees that are in the right of way, to stay abreast of the emerald ash borer infestation in Vermont, and to make recommendations regarding management for safety, as well as to implement the town tree plan as was prepared and adopted in 2017.

In response to the information items requested by the Selectboard:

1. Membership of the committee:

By the Selectboard's March 6, 2020 appointment for one year, the members are:

Neil Monteith, tree warden,

David Jacobs, deputy tree warden,

Laurie Kozar, Chair;

Cornelia Haffenfus, Secretary, Jeff Layn, Rodney Reis

(Alfred Dedam has stepped down due to other commitments)

Other members include Alan Thresher - volunteer

2. Accomplishments in 2020

A. Election of new members to the Board,

B. review of EAB concerns,

C. review of Fire District upgrade to water line and 3 impacted shade trees in ROW.

D. review management of roller barn area / create shade area for community events.

E. review cemetery maintenance

F. review pruning and maintenance of planted gateway trees and shade trees

B. Review of matching grant opportunity for EAB management - as shared by Town Clerk. (This option was deferred as no appropriation of funds was made by the former tree board, and the current Board felt the ash tree inventory was first priority. We sought the loan of equipment (iPads with mapping feature) for ash tree inventory which is under way.

C. Review of replacement of shade trees at corner of Old Cemetery Rd. / and Peacham Rd. Removal of these town trees by Munson Excavation / contractor for Fire District was due to the water main work. The trees that were removed were slated for replacement, but due to considerable and extensive ledge removal, and a shift from the original plan for the installation of the junction box the trees were not replaced. We hope to replace one shade tree at the corner with the Fire Districts assistance. Alan Thresher has agreed to provide excavation work as a community volunteer.

D. Proposal of understory management to favor shade trees

E. Inspect trees in cemetery for soundness, pruning maintenance or removal spring 2021
(Funds may be needed for arborist work/evaluations proposals will be sought)

F. Pruning of gateway trees and other trees planted by past tree board will be undertaken spring 2021, 2022 or as needed.

3. Expenses associated with the committee:

At this time, no expenses are associated with this board.

Although several years ago a town tree plan was developed and prepared by David Jacobs, with written guidelines (currently in use) we are not seeking funds to implement any new shade tree purchases and plantings at this time, and instead focus on EAB and ash tree management, cemetery maintenance, replacement of 1 tree with Fire District. (Estimate will be sought from 3 sources for 3" or 4" diameter- anticipated estimates \$400.00 + delivery)

4. Concerns or issues to have addressed by the Selectboard:

The committee would recommend a review of EAB management as this invasive species has been found in nearby towns. Our ash borer trap was set on Willow Brook Rd. No invasive pests were identified.

5. Review procedures

A. The Town Clerk will have copies for each newly elected and appointed committee member.

B. Revised tree warden statutes. The members will designate a tree warden by consensus, early in the current year (either continuing with the tree warden from the year before or selecting a new tree warden). * Neil can speak in more detail about this.

C. The chairperson will be selected by the appointed members annually. The Chair shall contact the Town Clerk by April 1 to update list of the current chair and tree warden as voted by members of the board. (This update is to help the Town Clerk in keeping up with changes in personnel in the organization.)

D. The chairperson will update the Town Clerk regarding need for agenda time with select board for any grant funds sought by the tree board (for EAB, shade tree programs, or other proposals for town trees) to seek approval of select board for such.

E. The committee chairperson will prepare information, verbal or written, for presentation to the select board, for grants or programs and manage grant application requirements with board members and tree warden.

F. The chair person shall also prepare educational materials and information for voters in attendance at Town Meeting.