

**Tree Board Meeting--Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**7 PM**  
**Peacham Library**

In attendance: Joe Layn (chair), Neil Monteith, Julie Lang, Jason Bean, Cornelia Hasenfuss

Public: Dave Stauffer (Conservation committee) , Dick Brown (Select Board)

Meeting started at 7:05

1) Committee Meetings reports

EAB mitigation: Joe, Jason and Jeff met and created a thorough document for a plan. (see attached)

Plan is to mark trees that will fall in the road, in ROW, minimum 6" diameter. Select Board will meet and discuss this plan.

Wood could be left for landowner or donated to Dave Stauffer's Peacham "free firewood" pile.

Discussion around other trees that may fall, but we are concentrating on the Ash trees for now.

Plan should be reviewed this summer and implemented in the next year. Marking should start soon.

We noted that Ash trees are difficult and potentially dangerous to cut down and tree board does NOT recommend that landowners cut trees down on their own.

Town Trees Plan: Julie, Neil and Cornelia met and created a summary of Town Trees (see attached)

Mega pruning: should be done by an arborist, and will likely be what can be reached from the ground.

Cemetery trees: we will collaborate with Cemetery group (Karen Lewis?) to prune in the cemetery and establish a schedule.

Mulching and regular pruning could be done on a volunteer basis (mulch from Joe Layn?)

Select Board will review plan and advise on next steps.

2) Other Business- None

3) Next meeting TBD- we will wait to hear from Select Board

Adjourn at 8:05

## **Plan for Assessment and Marking of Hazardous Roadside Ash Trees May 2022 Draft**

### Purpose

This plan developed by the Peacham Tree Board is presented following the direction of the Peacham Select Board to outline proposed procedures for identifying and marking ash trees that may pose a hazard to the town roads after an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation.

### Determining Hazardous Trees

Trees may be deemed “Hazardous” if they meet each of the following criteria:

- Wholly or partly within the public ROW, including branches and crowns
- Having a reasonable likelihood of falling or shedding limbs into roadway
- Greater than 6” diameter at breast height (dbh)

Larger trees with a strong lean, which will present significant hazards or be difficult to remove from the roadway after they fall, may be deemed “High Priority” trees. If possible, High Priority trees should be among the first to be removed.

Trees outside of the ROW that will clearly fall into the roadway should be marked as well, though with a different color to differentiate them from the ROW trees. The Tree Board recommends removing these along with ROW trees as they will eventually create a hazard to the town roads.

Assessment and marking may be done by members of the Peacham Tree Board, members of the Peacham Road Crew, or others assigned this task by the Peacham Selectboard.

The task of deciding which trees to label hazardous inherently involves the judgment of the person doing the assessment. It’s our recommendation that, whenever a ROW tree cannot be soundly judged to pose no threat to the roadway, that it should be marked for removal.

### Nature of Markings

Trees determined to be hazardous will be spray painted with a single vertical green stripe approximately 4” long and 4-5’ above the ground. “High Priority Trees” will be marked with a double vertical stripe. Trees outside of the right of way that present a potential hazard to the road will be marked similarly but with a different color.

The goal of marking is to quickly and efficiently produce a long-lasting mark that is readily identifiable for those looking for them, but also not conspicuous enough to detract aesthetically.

We are not recommending marking stumps.

### Timeline

The process of marking roadside ash trees may take several years to complete. We currently don’t yet know how much time will be required to mark Peacham’s 70+ miles of road. As of Spring 2022, the nearest high-likelihood EAB infestation is located at the southwestern corner of

the town near Kettle Pond. Given the current rate of spread, we would attempt to complete marking within five years from when it starts.

Prioritization of the roads should be done in advance, preferably by the road crew. Factors to consider include:

- Proximity to high EAB infestation areas
- Road classifications
- Density of ash trees
- Traffic volume
- Development level along road (e.g. many homes vs few)

The Tree Board (or others marking) will, as closely as practical, follow the prioritized list developed by the road crew, marking trees along the highest priority roads first.

## PEACHAM TREE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Draft dated April 22, 2022

Location	Tree Description	Mega Pruning *	Regular pruning *
Cemetery	Selkirk crabapple (3)	2022	X
	Oak (3)	2022	X
	Hackberry (3)	2022	X
	Crabapple: in back, near circle (3)	2022	X
	Maple (1)	2022	X
	Elm (2)	2022	X
Gateways	All 'Snowdrift' crabapples		
North (Fickes)	5 trees		X
South (Clemons)	3 trees		X
South Peacham	3 trees		X
West (Firehouse)	3 trees		X
Upper Green	Red oak (4)		X
	Memorial maple (1)		X
	Yellow birch (1)		X
	Original Red oak (from mid 90s)	2022	X
Across from Green	Red oak (3)		X
	Selkirk crabapple (5)	2022	X
	Apple tree (1)	2022	X
Along Church Street Near PHA	Red oak (4)		X
	Hackberry (2)		X
Peacham village	(Jensen)		X
	(Powden)		X
	Town Hall		X
	Town Hall	2022	X
East Peacham Triangle	Red oak		X

\* These are priority trees needing pruning ASAP. Only what can be reached from the ground. Should be done by lower branches in cemetery and 'raise the crown'

- \*\* Trees to be pruned every 2-3 years on a rotating schedule. Could be done by Neil, David J, Jeff Lane
- \*\*
- \* Mulching to be refreshed annually when trees are in mowed areas

**Trees not maintained by Town of Peacham**

Six apple trees at PHA

Crabapple and Norway maple at Peacham Library

Trees at Peacham School