

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

7/16/24 | 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Chair, Leif Smedman, Alan Haehnel, David Barrell, Mike Copp, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

None

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by: Alan Haehnel. Seconded by: David Barrell

In Favor All Opposed None

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? June Tree Board Minutes approved

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report:

- The year old katsura tree at the Coop is dead. Mike from Northern Nurseries said he would replace the tree hopefully in the fall.
- The newly planted maples at Maxfield Sports Complex are looking stressed. Jim Henderson suggested applying a phosphite concentrate (potassium) to the trees. Jeff ordered the concentrate and will apply it when it arrives. Scott will check with his crew to see that they are regularly watering the new maples.

- Jeff contacted Savannah Ferreira, Vermont State Forest Health Specialist to assess the nine mature honey locusts located on Rt 14 under the I91 bridge that crosses the White River because they all have dead branches on them. She gave the following report: “Overall, there was dieback in most of the crowns that I suspect is from lower bole damage from lawn mower or weedwhacker damage, and root issues from improper planting and girdling roots. Trees that are planted too deep in the soil (root flare is not exposed) is something that the tree can withstand for many years, however, will eventually cause issues with roots taking up water and exchanging gasses. This can also lead to girdling roots - the roots grow larger, they can choke each other out trying to get water and minerals, which can contribute to dieback. Pruning out the deadwood would certainly make them look more lively. Honey locusts naturally hold on to their deadwood for a very long time. You can also remove the piled up sediment/grass around the trees to expose the root flares. Lastly, putting down a thin layer of mulch on exposed roots and around the newly exposed root flares could help keep them from getting mechanically damaged in the future.” She did not recommend taking them down. Jeff will try to implement her recommendations.

2) Tree Nursery Update and Riparian Buffer Project:

- We lost all the elderberry bushes and Redstart doesn't have any to replace them. For the most part the others are looking okay.
- The report is: Birches from last year: 11 - 2 dead 4 stressed; Dogwood from last year 7 - 1 dead 2 insect damage: Speckled Alder 10 – 1 sick; Nannyberry 10 – all healthy; Sycamore 15 all healthy; Serviceberry 10 all healthy; Black Cherry 10 all healthy; Tamarack 6 – 2 dead: Hazelnut 10 – 1 dead: Silver Maple 9 – 1 sick: Elderberry 6 all died.
- Gaal contributed some plants for the nursery. They were: 2 lilacs, 1 Pagoda Dogwood, 1 Crimson Crabapple and 1 Yellow Birch
- Leif will continue watering the rest of July, then Jeff and David and Bill will water in August.

3) Plan for work day on Hartford Avenue at the end of July:

- Four dead small trees along Hartford Avenue need to be removed . Chris Bump from V-trans gave permission to remove the trees. Leif, Jeff, Clare, David will meet at Superintendent's Office Friday, July 26th at 8 AM. Jeff, Mike, Jasmine and possibly her son will meet Saturday July 27th at 7 AM. Jeff will alert DPW to pick up the debris. Bring loppers, saws and any other tools used for cutting branches.

4) Plan for Tree ID walk in August:

- Jeff and Mike scoped out the cemetery property on Rt 14 for an August 24th tree walk.

5) Tree of the Month report:

- Clare will highlight the Swamp oak and sycamore at the Coop and the yellow woods on Hartford Ave the next few months.

6) Update on Community Forestry Grant:

- The stumps at Lyman Point Park were removed. Clare has applied for 1/3 of the Grant money that was used to purchase the 7 trees from Northern Nurseries.

7) Urban Forestry News Item:

- The State of New Hampshire and the federal government are working together on a project to protect ash trees from the emerald ash borer. They are experimenting with releasing three different types of parasitic wasps that feed on EAB larvae.
- Arborjet company is also injecting trees with a compound called Tree Age R10 whose active ingredient is 9.7% emamectin. They inject the pesticide in amounts of 2 ml per inch of trunk diameter, through plastic plugs that have been inserted every few inches along the base of the trunk. The drill bit is cleaned with isopropyl alcohol and the technicians wear safety goggles and gloves. EAB is found in 36 states and was first discovered in 2002.
- A 2013 study conducted in Ohio (*Flower et al*) provides valuable insights into the interactions between forest birds and emerald ash borers. Results of the study show that in a forest impacted by EAB, bark-foraging birds forage more heavily on ash trees than non-ash trees, and that they prefer to forage on ash trees that show signs of health decline, presumably due to EAB impacts, instead of foraging on trees that were more visually healthy. This would suggest that the birds use visual clues to identify which trees are infested. The study also reports that a sampling of 46 ash trees shows that birds significantly reduce the densities of EAB larvae by upwards of 85%. So, although the trees that the birds foraged EAB from are past the point of saving, there may be up to 85% fewer adults able to eventually emerge from the trees and fly to infect more ash trees.

8) The Tree Board reluctantly accepts Gaal Shepherd Crowl's resignation. She has been a valuable board member contributing much expertise and enthusiasm to many Tree Board projects.

New Business

None

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

None

Next Meeting

August 20, 2024 at 5 PM

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Leif Smedman No Quorum _____

Seconded by: Jeff Arnold _____

All in Favor: All _____ Opposed: _____ None _____

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth ____ Signature: _____

Date: 7/17/24 _____

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Jeff Arnold, Chair (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2023)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/01/2023)
- Alan Haehnel Member (2026)
- Mike Copp Member (05/2027)
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden
- One Tree Board position open