

Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2022, 6:30 pm, on the Common

Members in attendance: Barbara Alexander, Ann Ingerson, Jim Jones, Rob Libby, Robert Linck, Stuart LaPoint, Jim Moffatt

Members not attending: Ben Alexander, Logan Jones, Chris Sanville, Jane Solomon

Public attendees: Ned Houston

Ash Borer Update

Rob Libby reported that, after consulting with the Select Board and town road crew, he and Brian Machesney (representing the town Conservation Commission) will lead an effort in spring 2023 to map ash trees in town road rights of way (generally 1.5 rods or about 25ft. from road center, but a few roads may differ). They propose to collect a gps location, and maybe a photograph, for each tree. Volunteers will need camera or phone equipped with gps.

Questions to be answered:

- What is the minimum diameter of trees to be documented (those considered a hazard?)
- What information should be collected for each tree (diameter, general health assessment, specific hazards?)
- What actions will be taken (felling will occur only after consultation with landowners, perhaps only when trees are actually infected or dead?)
- When trees are felled, what will be done with the wood (landowners have first claim, preference for use on-site to avoid spreading the borer, could it be used for the Energy Committee firewood program?)

Common Trees

The committee felt that most trees were doing quite well, including the tough old half-dead maple at the southwest corner. We appreciate the care taken by the lawn maintenance crew to avoid scarring trunks with weed whackers. Stuart LaPoint volunteered to prune the lower branches of a few younger trees along the east side and cut dead wood from the two north-side trees. At some point, repeat pruning of the oldest trees will be needed to keep electric lines clear. No new plantings are recommended at this time.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

The Committee will hold a business meeting **June 16 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall**. Suggested agenda items include:

- What to do about the deteriorating facilities at the Coburn Hill lot. Should trails be established and maintained at Coburn and Hatch Brook lots?
- Permission for Logan Jones to collect and plant acorns at the Hatch Brook lots.
- Tree planting opportunities along the Black River (Stuart LaPoint to bring more information to the meeting).
- Sponsoring a search for the largest tree in town.

Meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 pm.