

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2019**

Committee Members Present: Conor Teal, Amanda Garland, Nate Ebert, Amy Galford

Committee Members Absent: **Nicko Rubin**

Staff Present: None

Visitors: None

1. Call to order – 6:01 pm by Member Amanda Garland

2. Changes to agenda? None.

3. Elmwood Cemetery

Nate: Ten Norway Spruce removed and will be milled. Neighbors were generally pleased with the clearing in regards to the slight risk for damage from falling limbs.

4. Main Street Trees

Amanda: (Nine) Gator watering bags purchased for Main Street Trees and trees have mulch placed where needed. Nicko did the work. Nicko said that there is grass growing in some plots with soil in good condition, and worth a discussion later to decide what other medium should be placed in those plots. Remove grass at some point?

Action item #1: (A. Garland): Will water the trees twice before snow arrival.

Action item #2: (A. Garland): Contact Bill Ahearn to ask to attend next committee meeting. Prototype Tree Guard needed for Matheson park and then possible approval for all newly planted trees.

Action Item #3: (A. Garland): Will build a Google Drive folder for the committee to share reference docs and contributions to plans.

5. Management Plan

Amanda: Researched some management plans written by students and faculty at various universities, which great detail, however they may be more than we need at this time. John Snell from Montpelier Tree Board offered to share Montpelier's Tree Management Plan for ideas/reference. Their City Council approved the plan. Also need a short-term priority list based on seasons (months, weeks?) or however detailed we can get it. Building a timeframe-based plan would be beneficial to the city staff.

Amy: Found a sample work plan for tree committees (from Penn State University) to utilize in development of management plans. Will ask their permission for a digital copy to put in Google Drive folder.

Committee: Discussion over Barre City Inventory list. Updates needed? If so, who should be involved to inventory them? Discussion went over to GIS maps that were done by previous inventory of public trees. Some right-a-way areas have not been surveyed, but most parks and a couple cemeteries have been. How to avoid surveying same trees?

Amy: Maybe export Barre City portion of VT ANR Atlas from Barre City Public Tree Inventory Report and then we could build a priority pruning list from these? Amy will add to shared drive:

Annual Community Tree Budget Worksheet plus other documents she found to reference in creating the management plan.

Amanda: What should we offer to the City in terms of short-term priorities?

Nate: Arborist should be hired out for pruning; need pruning on Main Street trees.

Amanda will contact Jeff Bergeron to let the city staff know what should be done during the Fall season.

6. Volunteer

Some discussion on event possibilities, the group will look up events to attend during the Fall.

Conor: Has a folding table to use for setting up at events, canvassing use. Might need to do more planning about demonstrating what the Tree Committee's goals are and how the public can help. For instance, volunteer opportunities and how they can be found with a Front Porch Forum advert.

7. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Planning

Nate: Staff should have full recognition of the inventory of BC's Ash trees and they should be investigated for EAB 1-2x per year. Some hazardous trees are in right-of-ways. Generally, they'll all be wiped out so determining the areas that would cause damage to structures is most important. Likely prioritize the areas near private property.

Amy: Develop guides for staff? Or have UVM students to participate in helping in management plan?

Nate: Committee should make a recommendation for EAB management to City. Within a year the tree dies and falls apart quickly.

Committee: Discussion over Ash tree uses if they are felled.

Nate: Not profitable for loggers to pick out a handful of ash trees here and there to sell. Before they leaf out, look for blanding on the bark. Woodpeckers are a sign. Need to be creative to make money off them. Might have to make different uses out of wood.

Action Item #4 (A. Garland): Request for Emerald Ash Borer inventory volunteer on Front Porch Forum. Email John Snell for Montpelier plan and advice.

11. Set Agenda for next month:

- Management Plan Progress.
- Main Streets maintenance.
- Pruning Schedule for Fall.
- Volunteer Recruitment Event Discussion.
- EAB plan to evaluate.

7. Adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn at 7:01 pm by A. Garland and seconded by C. Teal, passed unanimously.