

DRAFT Montpelier Tree Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, May 7, 2026 meeting 5:30-6:30PM

Attending: Sarah, John S., Nancy, Steve, Linda, Joseph, Owen, John A (recorder)

Acknowledgement of the land we are on and those who came before – Abenaki tree related vocabulary

We left this acknowledgement to the end of the meeting hoping that Shawn could join us.

Approval of April 2, 2026 minutes: Approved.

Species Identifications: John S brought some cuttings from trees currently blooming or leafing out in Montpelier including a Tamarack (Hackmatack – *Abenaki*; also, Larch), a Little Leaf Linden, a Freeman Maple, an Elm, a Serviceberry, a Crab Apple and a Box Elder.

Comments from the public: None present.

Connecting the Tree Board with Downtown Businesses and Marketing: Sarah, John S, and Alec met with the new owner of the State Street Seafood & Meat store, Shannon Bates who is very interested in having more trees downtown along State Street. The Tree Board welcomes her interest in increasing Montpelier's tree canopy and may seek her help in the future as a means to connect with other downtown businesses.

Parks and Trees activities (Joseph): General update

Joseph reported that Parks has been doing a great deal of planting in the Cummings Street and North Branch Pump track areas including the creation of a community orchard with several species of fruit trees. In addition, there were plantings of red maples in the Windham Drive Hubbard Park access area to create a visual screen for residents there. Parks has a new Feast Farm director, Jeannie Bartlett, as well as two new six-month AmeriCorps members Mattie and Marissa. Joseph also reported that Eastrise Credit Union had removed two trees deemed to be hazard trees to their parking lot area. There may be tree planting possibilities on both sides of the Bailey Avenue bridge on the Eastrise side and also on the bank from the State Street Seafood & Meat store upstream to the railroad bridge. Also discussed was planting the trees Shawn has available along the bank upstream of the Pioneer Street Bridge and also along the North Branch River path. Joseph feels that the tree planting season may have only two weeks left for trees taken from the nursery but more time for dormant trees in the cooler. Finally, there will be some trees needed to be added to the nursery and Tree Board members and volunteers are requested to help if possible. Joseph will follow-up with a date and time for this activity.

Spring tree planting locations updates

THIS WEEKEND:

John S will plant a Serviceberry at 2 First Avenue on Saturday, May 9th at 1 p.m. Sarah will supply the serviceberry, woodchips, and a cage.

Owen has contacted homeowners for plantings in the following areas:

11 Deerfield Avenue (Ben Parker) – a Freeman Maple and a Serviceberry to be planted at on Saturday, May 9th at 3 p.m. with Sarah coordinating.

54 Liberty Street (Eli and Kara Rosenberg) - 3 Witch Hazel and 3 Serviceberry to be planted on this steep site on Sunday, May 10th at 3 p.m. with Sarah coordinating.

Location in parking lot area behind Chico's Tacos and Bar (Court Street side) with an Elm to be planted there (date not determined, John S coordinating).

Planting technique idea: Adam McCullough has drafted a suggested planting technique for street trees based on the observation that tree roots often follow buried piping. The illustrations for this technique are attached.

T-shirts: John S will deliver Tree Board t-shirts to our new Mayor, Marc Gwinn and our new City Manager, Kelly McNicholas Kury.

Treasury Report (John S): Nothing to report.

Grant application (up to \$5,000 – Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier) & State Street Planting (John S.)

At the suggestion of Shannon Bates, John S put together a proposal for a grant from the Foundation for \$8,600 for five additional trees to be planted along State Street. Due to the fact that the proposal does not involve “bricks and mortar” it may not be funded. However, John S believes that with other funding sources (including funds from the Tree Board) we should be able to plant 5 trees (2.5 inch diameter, up to 12' high). The Board voted unanimously to proceed, including using \$1,000 – \$1,200 of Tree Board funds. Plantings to occur in the next month.

2026 Budget (update)

Heather Graves is the new Montpelier Finance Director.

Cemetery Update (John S and Nancy)

The staff at the cemetery took care of all the necessary preparations for the recent tree plantings there and everything went smoothly. Jason Kass, Chair of the Cemetery Commission, assisted with his family. The next step in the process is to plan for and establish an arboretum. Nancy envisions a central core area for the arboretum and asked if there are trees in the nursery than would benefit from being moved out and planted in support of the arboretum. John S stated that the next step is a brainstorming session on the topic with cemetery staff. It is believed that there are already 20 or more species of trees in the cemetery area which is the qualifying number for arboretum status.

Arbor Day Planting Update *note: Joanne G. – moving VT Arbor Day to National Arbor Day

Steve reported that our VT Arbor Day celebration in Montpelier coincided with the National Arbor Day this year.

Calendar:

Report on previous events (i.e. VT Woodlands Conference April 11)

No one present at the meeting had attended this conference.

Upcoming events:

Urban and Community Forestry conference May 28th @ VT State University, Randolph

Vermont Introduced Species Collaborative Gathering Registration Friday, May 8th @ 111 State St. Room 110.

Other business:

John S has sent out an email to our listing of volunteers asking if they wish to remain on that contact list.

Advertising volunteer days: Central Vermont Community Radio Calendar

No action was taken on this suggestion.

Follow-up on Last Year's Plantings: Linda will prepare a communication for contacting people who had trees planted on their property last year with suggestions for tree care as well as an offer from the Tree Board to assist with necessary pruning, etc.

Invasives: Steve and Linda will conduct some limited invasives removal work at the Country Club Road area.

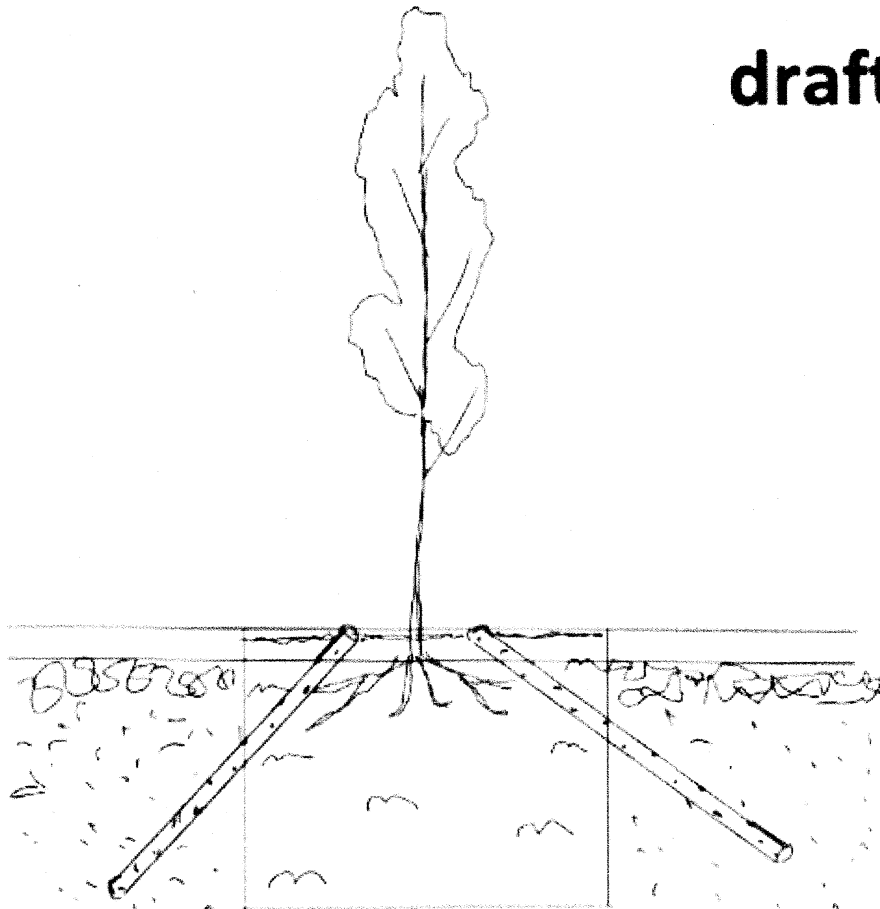
Joanne Garton did not receive the grant to release the biocontrol for EAB (John A)

Joanne had speculated (but without definitive knowledge) that likely reasons include lack of availability of wasps, the presence of another release site already in this county, or simply lack of funding for these initiatives at a federal level and a resulting downsized program.

Next meeting: June 4, 2026 5:30-6:30pm in City Hall

Suggested Planting Site Aeration Irrigation

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Perforated pipe option: leaving the end above grade to allow gas exchange, passive water, and irrigation water.

Dig pilot hole into sidewalk subbase no wider than necessary to insert pipe, with Vactor, shovel, post hole digger, air spade, or auger.

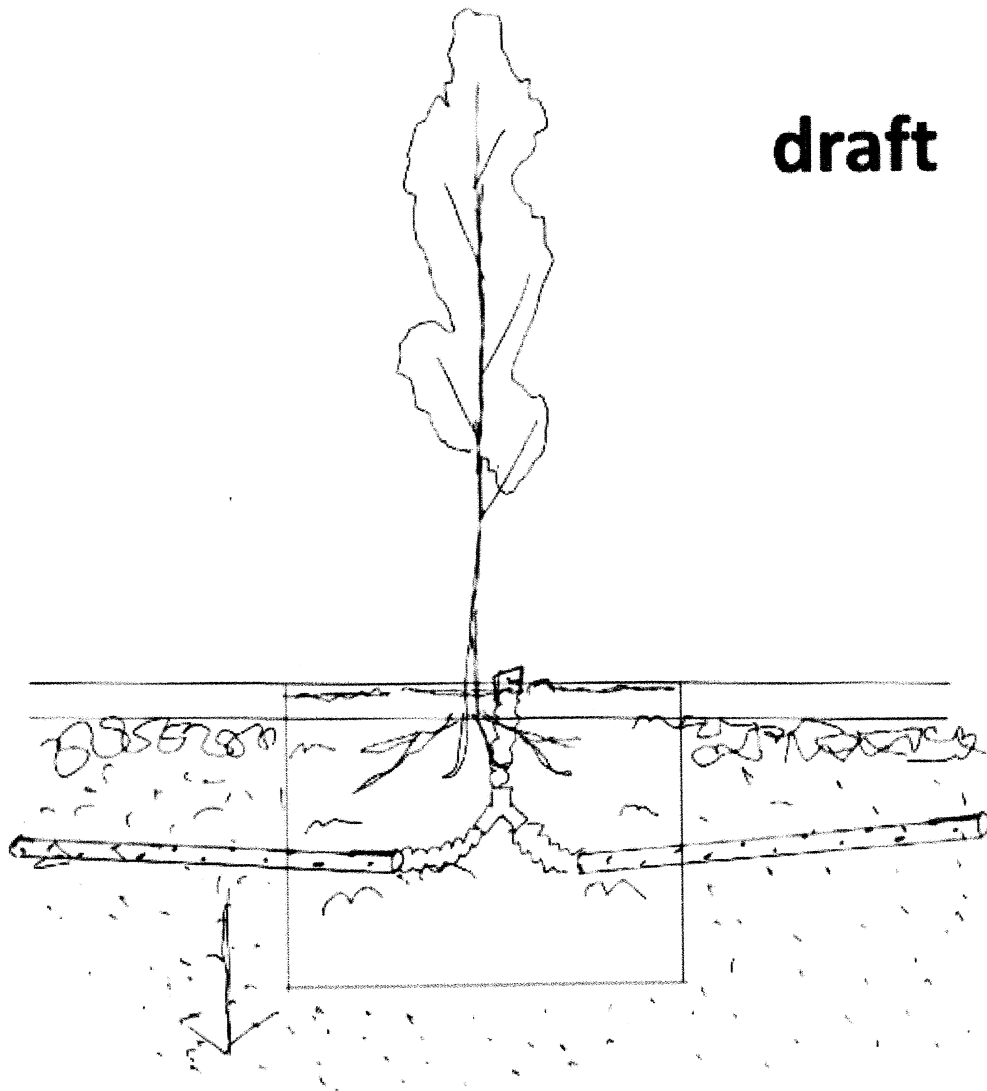
Rebar option: hammer or press it in use pilot hole if necessary.

And there is no need for the end of the rebar to be visible above ground.



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Perforated pipe option 2: Install by shooting pressurized water into pipe, letting slurry drain backward toward pit. Pipe must be angled upward to drain slurry. Pipe should be wide enough to drain slurry. Attach ends of perforated pipe to a flexible hose rigid enough not to collapse during backfilling, that emerges from the ground near the tree. Hoses joined or separate.

Prepared By Adam McCullough, Urban Forester
Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program



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