

Attending: Abby, Lynn, Shawn, John A, Adz , Dot and Ken

We did not have a quorum so the meeting was held for informational purposes only.

- **Approval of Agenda** – The agenda was modified to include a segment on the Festival of Trees (Lynn)
- **Approval of July and August minutes** (deferred until the October meeting)
- **Comments from the public:** Ken offered his house in East Montpelier as the location for the October meeting – to be discussed in the interim.

- **Old Business:**

EAB Update (John A)

- 8/11 Capitol Theatre Trap Check - negative
- 8/18 NL and College Street Trap Checks – found look-a-like (A. anxius)
- 8/19 Look-a-like delivered to State Entomologist
- 8/20 Checked Richardson ash tree while being cut - negative
Checked Old Shelter and Pioneer Apt Traps - negative
- 8/30 Checked traps at Down Home Kitchen and NBNC with Adz – negative
- 9/4 Re-survey Trees Checked on Towne Hill Road and North Streets

Nursery inventory (Lynn)

With Adz's help by bringing the Parks watering tank, the nursery trees were watered on 8/6. The nursery inventory is not finished yet, four more rows of trees need to be added. May continue inventory work after the 16th of this month. Among the tree species that need to be planted this Fall (ASAP) are catalpa, ginkgo, hackberry, lindens, sycamore and tulip poplar. Adz noted that if we can clear out an entire row of trees, we can lay down a new bed of chips for that row.

Shawn mentioned that she has a list of landowners that are interested in streamside plantings and she will share that list with John S. so some may receive trees this Fall. She asked if there was funding for buying smaller trees suitable for streamside plantings.

Nursery watering system (John S, via email)

Nursery watering system: after looking at many options, it appears the best is to purchase a battery operated water pump (\$300) that we can share with parks. Add to that hoses and a tank on a platform and a drip system to distribute the water to each tree. I have not detailed out the whole thing or the total cost but feel it is much simpler and less costly than a well, solar pump, etc. John A has determined that we can, in fact, pump from the river without a problem from the state. Additionally, I have checked on the existing tank that is on top of the garden shack and it appears to be damaged; it may be useable when we get it down and look more closely. NBNC has asked that we take it down at some point. Also the roofing boards of the shack are rotting in several places. All the makings of a good fall project!

James had e-mailed the Board that he has devised a watering plan for the nursery and will share it with the group soon.

We have a withdrawal approval letter from the State that allows up to 100 gpm.

Fall planting (John S, via email)

Fall planting: I don't have a full inventory of what is in the nursery and what could or should come out this fall. I'm assuming we probably have 20-25 trees that could be moved. I have not yet updated a list I have of folks who expressed interest in the past but will. Not sure if we will have the species they want either. So lots of unknowns but, regardless, I'd love to have all of us work together to aim to move 20-25 trees in late Sept or Oct. Please keep your eyes open for planting sites, especially in front yards.

We discussed the volunteer list and the need to contact these folks for help on workdays as well as to find out if any would like trees planted on their properties. We expect to contact these folks either by phone or e-mail in the second half of this month.

Tree management (Adam)

Adz noted that the EAB Management Plan calls for the removal of an average of 50 ash a year for the 10 year plan. He is interested in removing some ash trees in advance of their infestation and the area in question is downhill of Parkway, basically adjacent to some properties in the Meadow neighborhood. He mentioned that it would be most efficient to remove many of the ash at one time rather than piecemeal. He is trying to avoid having to deal with these trees when they are dead, brittle, and represent a major hazard to the homeowners as well as anyone charged with their removal. Questions were raised about how this removal might cause erosion problems given that the slope in this area is fairly steep. John A mentioned that if our monitoring efforts are successful, we can slow the spread of EAB to the point where it will not kill all of Montpelier's ash for many years if at all. Mention was made of similar efforts in Wisconsin that have proven effective. John A recommended selective cutting of those ash that have recognized targets in that area. Abby also recommended that we hold a community informational meeting prior to any removals and Shawn recommended signage for the trees that would be removed as well as advertising the informational meeting.

• New Business

Snake worm presentation at NBNC (Sarah) – Sarah could not attend this meeting

Enchanted Forest (Jac) – Jac was not available for the meeting

Festival of Trees (Lynn)

The Festival is scheduled for February 9, 2020. There will be a meeting with NBNC staff beforehand to discuss tree aspects of the festival. Charlie Nardozi has been mentioned as a possible speaker. We discussed what worked well the last time and what could be added. Aspects discussed: John Snell pictures, walk thru nursery for winter tree ID, trees for stream protection and possibly a stream demonstration table, kids taking photos as EAB, community ash tree awareness education, option for a movie for those not going to the nursery, spoon carving for kids, and asking folks if they wanted trees planted.

Work days: TBD - Probably later in the month