

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Selectboard members present: Chair Joel Bouvier, Vice-Chair Ted Lylis, Peter Coffey.

Members absent: Pecker Heffernan, Michelle Perlee.

Staff present: Town Administrator Valerie Capels

Others present: Mark Boltz-Robinson (Monkton), David Brynn (Bristol), Lynn Coeby (Ripton), Caitlin Cusack (Bristol), Leslie Kameny (Middlebury), Shawn Kimball (NEATv), Barry King (Ripton), Jan McCleery (Starksboro), Joe Nelson (Ferrisburgh), Christopher Olson (Addison County Forester), Hans Raum (Middlebury), Judy Rosovsky (VT Agency of Agriculture), Elise Schadler (VT Urban Forestry Program) Tina Scharf (Lincoln), John Sweptson (Bristol Tree Warden), Sally Thodel (Middlebury), Keith Thompson (VT Forests, Parks, & Recreation) Judy Wiger-Grohs (Middlebury), Lonnie & Nadie VanZandt (Panton), Chris Zeoli (Middlebury).

I. Call to Order.

1. Chair Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. Regular Business.

1. Public Information Meeting: Emerald Ash Borer. Valerie Capels provided a brief introduction, noting that Bristol received official notice on June 5, 2019 that the emerald ash borer was confirmed.

Elise Schadler, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, explained the discovery and spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB) across the United States and Canada and its impact on ash trees. Trees die within five years from the initial infestation and the dead trees can become hazards due to the altered nature of the wood. Towns within five miles of Bristol's sighting should be preparing to slow the spread of the EAB.

Judy Rosovsky, VT State Entomologist, described the life cycles of the EAB, the symptoms of infested trees, and how to identify EAB infestation.

Keith Thompson, VT Forests Parks & Recreation Private Lands Program Manager, explained Vermont's response and efforts to slow the spread of the EAB. Movement of firewood and lumber has been identified as a significant factor. Vermont is located in the federal quarantine zone.

Elise Schadler described treatment options and emphasized the need to have a game plan. The location and condition of the community's ash trees should be inventoried. Private property owners should be engaged to learn of their options. Identify and prioritize which should be protected through a 2-year inoculation program for the life of the tree, and which should be removed. Budget for the treatment, removal, and/or replacement of the ash trees.

David Brynn suggested that as many ash trees should be saved as possible, particularly those in the Town Green.

2. Next Steps. There was consensus to first obtain copies of the EAB management plans from Middlebury, Rutland, and Montpelier to learn how they approached their situations. Valerie will reach out to the Conservation Commission to see if they are interested in being involved in this process.

VII. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator