



Town of Bristol
Town Administrator
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MEMO

TO: Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Plan Committee
FROM: Valerie Capels, Town Administrator
DATE: August 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Welcome

I am happy to report, though belatedly, that at their meeting on August 10, 2020, the Bristol Selectboard voted to appoint Christopher Pepe, Mark Adams, Jill Steinberg, Jono Chapin, Alex Mihavics, and John Swepston--and Christopher Urban on August 24, 2020--to the Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Plan Committee. Congratulations!

This newly formed committee was approved to be standing committee with up to seven voting members with 2-year terms. In this case, the terms will run through March 2022, when appointments and reappointments of Town Officers would ordinarily be made following the annual Town Meeting. The membership would include the Tree Warden, at least one representative from the Conservation Commission, and at least one representative from the Recreation Department. The Town Administrator would not be a voting member but would provide support. The current appointments include four citizen members.

Organizational Meeting

We will need to coordinate a date and time that works best for people to meet to get things off the ground. I suggest that our first organizational meeting can be combined with an orientation session provided by Joanne Garton with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Outreach will be forthcoming by e-mail to coordinate arrangements. Meetings are likely to be held via Zoom.

Members

Mark Adams and Jill Steinberg
8 North Street
(802) 310-3608
touchvt@gmail.com

Christopher Pepe
pepeca@praecipio.com

Christopher Urban
21 Maple Street
(802) 343-4406
curban@huusd.org

Town Tree Warden
John Swepston
Moving to Maple Street
(802) 377-5417
swepstonarborworks@gmail.com

Conservation Commission Representative

Jono Chapin
402 Hewitt Drive
453-4535
jtchapin@hotmail.com

Recreation Department Representative

Alex Mihavics
1 South Street
453-5885
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Committee Role

The role of the committee will be to help update and broaden the 2014 street tree inventory to identify the location and condition of all ash trees on public properties, including along neighborhood streets, within public parks, and along roadways. The identified trees would be analyzed, prioritized, and recommendations developed for either the protection of key specimens or for their removal, as well as trees recommended for replacement. This information would be presented in an Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Management Plan that would include a budget and timeline for treating, removing and/or replacing the identified trees. At least one public information meeting would be held to share the results, recommendations, and information about best management practices and to get citizens' concerns and thoughts about the plan.

As this particular project comes to a close, the role and composition of the committee may evolve depending on the strategic plan recommendations, individual member input, and overall needs of the community at that time and in the foreseeable future.

More information about the EAB Strategic Plan initiative, Bristol's street trees, and more can be found at:

<http://bristolvt.org/works-in-progress/emerald-ash-borer-strategic-plan-committee/> (not updated since the COVID-19 shutdown)

<http://bristolvt.org/towndepartments/tree-warden/>

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/community-planning/tree-pests>

Thank you very much for your interest in serving on this groundbreaking committee. I look forward to working with you on this important initiative and hope you will find it to be a rewarding experience.