

Agenda: Elm Commission Meeting 20 Oct. 2016 at 7:30 PM; location at the Volunteer Gov't Meeting Room (2nd floor Town Hall); Minutes Published 10 Feb. 2017

Review Potential Actions for the Common, Little Common, Bromfield parking lot, the library parking lot and the Hildreth Elementary School.

Elm Commission Attendees: Christian Bilodeau, Mario Cardenas, Denis Wagner, Bill Calderwood
Public Attendees: Tom Garfield and Matt Shields

Potential Actions / Discussion:

1. Remove stumps from trees removed (Common, corner of Pond Rd and 111 and the Hildreth Elementary School). Bill to tabulate list and send to Tim Bragan as DPW pays for stump removal, debris removal, top soil replacement and planting of grass. Plan to grind in March /April.
2. Any other stumps to remove? No
3. Review elm fungicide injection past and present plan (past 3 years and future plan). The Phair elm (#3) has so little canopy and requires so much fungicide, it was voted at a previous meeting to stop injections. When the Phair elm has to be removed, it is proposed to move the Phair memorial stone over to the disease resistant elm (located next to the Phair elm for this purpose)—at that time, other stakeholders will be queried. For aesthetics and ease of mowing, it is suggested that when the memorial stone is moved it be placed face up level to the ground. For 2016 injections, #19 (elm next to school parking lot and cemetery) was added to the priority list in place of # 3 and 33. #11 (next to water fountain on Common) was taken down in 2016.
4. Review systemic treatments made this past spring (in soil injections for borers and leaf eating pests); the following nine young trees were treated on the library side of 111 (some planted in library parking lot and others planted by us).
 - a. 2 sugar maples and elm in library parking lot
 - b. 2 red oaks, 2 accolade elms, a red maple and the tulip tree

The 2016 winter crabapple pruning that Mario and I did on the NE corner of the library was confirmed by Tree Specialists to actually be fire blight (fertilize, lime and assess for pruning this winter).

5. Review watering performed by Tom Garfield in 2016; total number of trees watered were 18 plus the three added pin oaks at the new high school parking lot. The group agreed to reduce the number of bags as over half the trees were planted 3 or more years ago (established). By the end of August 2016, Tom Garfield accumulated 84 hours of watering. Tom was thanked for all his watering that went into November in such an awful drought year. Many bags are taped and leaking (damaged in field) so Bill will order more.
6. Planted trees that are stressed (red maple on 111, Tulip Tree, Elementary School trees and library trees); no trees on the elementary side of 111 were treated for boring insects (reference item 4); three trees will be removed (first Princeton Elm was removed in 2016's drought; dead sugar maple and damaged little leaf linden will likely be replaced by red maples in 2017)
7. National Grid matching grant with Tree Warden budget-- logistics and constraints. Discussion for planting plan proposed in Bromfield parking lot (islands and periphery of parking lot):

The group discussion assessed the below constraints and complexities and decided to only assist anyone who wishes to pursue the grant:

 - No advance plan was made for trees in islands (light poles and wires)
 - Limited space in islands for shade trees away from light poles
 - Snow plowing pile locations are needed prior to planting trees on the edge of the parking area (existing 3 pin oak trees and fence were installed)

- Bumpers of cars overlap curbing in island (reducing effective width for mature trees)
 - The Tree Warden (Christian Bilodeau) is resigning next spring
 - No specific recommendations at this time.
8. Must prune young trees this winter and lime trees. Expect to schedule for Sat / Sunday morning of either Feb. 18/19 and / or mid-March. Will discuss with DPW how to get specific trees limed on the Common, Little Commons and in front of the library. Last time Bill bought lime at Home Depot (ideally would order a pallet of granulated lime). Will need to get debris from pruning picked up by DPW.
 9. Schedule meeting in March for potential memorial tree planting sites (leave ~5 locations open) vs other future plantings (plan to plant 2 red maples in place of damaged little leaf linden in front and dead sugar maple left of Hildreth; plan to replace disease resistant elm that was removed at corner of Pond Rd. and 111). Will need access to top soil from DPW prior to tree planting.
 10. Other items that arise: Matt Shields attended this meeting to understand what being on the Elm Commission would be like (currently have one opening for an appointed position); Bill to prepare and coordinate Newsletter.