

Town of Harvard

Minutes: Elm Commission Meeting 13 April 2017 at 7:30 PM; location at the Volunteer Gov't Meeting Room (2nd floor Town Hall); Minutes Issued on 18 April 2017

Attendees: JC Ferguson (Tree Warden), Mario Cardenas, Denis Wagner, Bill Calderwood and Matt Shields

Review Potential Actions for the "Town Corridor"

Potential Actions / Discussion:

1. Introductions with new Tree Warden (JC Ferguson)—background "package" to JC and Matt Shields. Bill will update original DPW map locating current injected elms by number. The three Elm Commissioners and the Tree Warden voted unanimously in favor of having Matt Shields appointed to the Elm Commission.
2. Remove stumps from trees removed (Common, corner of Pond Rd and 111 and the Hildreth Elementary School). Bill tabulated list and sent to DPW. DPW pays for stump removal, debris removal, top soil replacement and planting of grass. Funding source questions came up so need to be resolved prior to work being done.
3. Review elm fungicide injection past and present plan (past 3 years and future plan). June injections will be paid by both Forestry and Harvard Tree Fund sources as the Forestry funds of this year are not sufficient.
4. 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 (do not fertilize, possibly lime and assess for pruning in winter of 2018).
5. Many water bags are taped and leaking (damaged in field) so Bill ordered more. Use old bags for protection from weed whacking / mower if mulch is not sufficient to protect tree.
6. Pruned almost 30 trees with volunteers this winter. Need to lime old and new trees. Bill will likely order pelletized lime from Littleton Agway and spread. Bill to distribute prior soil testing report results prior to application of lime (often apply multiple times for pH correction). Will likely recheck some sample locations for pH (expect low pH—acid soil) as report was issued years ago. At the time, only a portion of the required lime was spread by Bill.
7. Will need to buy top soil prior to tree planting -- will have to order 2-3 yards. Plan to replace first grade tree plantings (sugar maple, linden and tulip) and replace the Dorothy Andrews elm (pond road and 111 corner). Will work with school to identify and notify class of re-plantings. School construction plans inhibit any further planting around HES until those plans are fully approved. Plan to plant first grade tree on Bromfield driveway, another location or the "Superintendent's" corner (?). A walk around meeting will be posted for April 20 at 6PM (discuss cultivar and 2017 planting location options). First grade tree planting date is set for May 4 or 5 (need school to confirm date and time). 2017 planned plantings are first grade tree, replace the Dorothy Andrews elm (investigate Alle and other available elm cultivars) and the Tulip tree. The dead sugar maple (planted as a first grade tree—to the NW of HES) will be cut down soon and replaced after school construction plans are known.
8. Need to decide on location and cultivar of first grade tree planting for 2017. Bill has ordered gift trees (bald cypress) for a planting on May 4 or 5. Time and day tbd.