

Calais Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Calais Town Office
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7:00 pm

Present: Stephanie Kaplan, Larry Bush, Neal Maker, Julie Hand, Pat Johnson, Drew Lamb, Mark Brown

Guests: Nate Ebert

1. EAB Planning: Arborist Nate Ebert met with the Commission to discuss his experiences with the Emerald Ash Borer when he lives in Minnesota. Among other things, he explained why ash trees are more expensive to take down after they're dead or dying. The EAB damage under the bark prevents water from getting to the tree and its branches. The trees dry up and get brittle quickly, so limbs weaken and fall off and the direction of the limbs and the tree itself falling is no longer predictable. It is so dangerous that big tree companies will not climb ash trees. However, not all ash trees present hazards and need to be cut down. For example, trees that are strongly leaning away from the road will fall away from the road and not present a danger to the traveling public.

It would be cost effective to have some ash trees that are leaning toward the road be cut and dropped into the road and then cut up, rather than anyone climbing the tree. Winter is an especially good time to do that. The road would likely have to be closed while this is being done.

Once an ash tree is cut down, if it is chipped, the chips can be transported because the chipping kills all the beetles and their larvae.

It might make sense to set up a community processing area.

It takes 2-3 years for an ash tree to die after it's infested.

It costs \$10-\$15 per inch to treat an infected ash tree. There are less toxic insecticides that are being used.

The Commission is on the Selectboard's agenda to meet with them on January 27 to talk about what the town should do about the EAB and its many ash trees. It would be a good idea for someone from the road crew (or Toby) to be there to talk about what the crew's availability and ability to cut some roadside ash trees. Stephanie will ask Joanne Garton if some of the grant money could be used for training the road crew in taking down trees. Several CC members have driven around Calais to identify high traffic roads with dense areas of ash trees, in order to tag the ash trees to raise public

awareness. They will be sending letters to homeowners to inform them of this project.

2. Shoreland Zoning: The Commission members had read the CLSC's letter to the Planning Commission, as well as the relevant proposed revised Shoreland Zoning sections. The Commission was grateful to the CLSC for doing such a detailed analysis, and fully support their comments. They also discussed additional comments and questions about the proposed revised zoning. Stephanie took notes and will draft a letter to the Planning Commission and send it to all Commission members to review and give input on before sending it to the Planning Commission.
3. Other business: None.
4. Public comment: None.
5. Adjournment: motioned to adjourn at 9:15 pm; seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Date: 1/14/2020 Respectfully Submitted, Stephanie Kaplan

Approved by the Conservation Commission at the 2/11/2020 meeting