

**Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC46) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
7:00 pm meeting, Room 201
Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Kristin Ace, Chair
Karl Roettger, Acting Vice Chair
Michael Rockland
Deb Regan, Secretary
Candy Beagles
John Harris (arrived later in meeting)

Guests:

Rich Wolowicz, Town Arborist

Roll Call: all present except John who arrived later on in the evening.

Statement of Compliance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law) made by Kristin. Additionally Kristin mentioned that when we send out a group message via email it becomes a group meeting and is in violation of the Sunshine Act. Something we have to bear in mind.

Presentation and Slides on Emerald Ash Boer Made by:
Rich Wolowicz

Summary of Slides

- History of Emerald Ash Boer
- Insect has killed millions of trees
- Initially detected in 2002
- Originates from Asia
- An estimated 4 out of every 1000 white ash will survive

Is difficult to detect and delineating infestations. When damage is evident tree is already dead.

Control methods:

- None
- Biologic (parasitic wasps)
- Systemic (chemical treatment)
- Slam

Challenges: Home properties, parks & recreational areas

How Bad Is the Infestation?

Approx. 50 million trees in North America have been killed
Hundreds of millions infested

EAB Life Cycle illustration

- Can occur in 1-2years
- Spring: adults emerge via D shaped exit holes
- Summer: adult mate and female lays up to 100 eggs
- Its about the size of a penny
- No thorax and is cylindrical in shape
- They leave serpentine carving hitting critical areas of the tree such as the cambium, which is responsible for developing spring wood.
- The insect penetrates the tunneling affecting growth and nutrition of the tree.

What Professionals Say About EAB?

- You think it's going to be bad and its worse.
- Ecological catastrophe
- Ecological & Economic Tornado

EAB Infestation Facts

- 3-5 years or longer to decline or dead
- Newly infested show no outward signs
- Early sign, thinning crowns, branch dieback
- Woodpecker activity
- There is not practical way to prevent
- Entry and exit holes on a tree

Illustrations

Canopy dieback

Treated trees (lush and healthy) vs. Untreated trees (thinning & unhealthy in appearance)

EAB Basic Facts Revisited

Native to Asia

Small green beetle about 1cm

Population build up: Ash tree death curve illustrated

Syracuse NY

- Ash Tree population 2000
- Removal cost \$900,000
- Injection cost \$90,000 with re-injections costing the same every 3 yrs.
- Private tree removal responsibility of land owner

Morristown Ash Tree population (approximate)

- 179
- 5 Dead Dying
- 10 Poor
- 61 Fair
- 103 Good
- Cost to treat once roughly \$30,000

Economic Impacts to Communities illustrated in detailed slide

- Cost of development plan
- Administration program
- Removal
- Replacement
- Loss benefit of removal of trees

Other Economic Costs

- Cost to the nursery industry
- Cost of wood products
- Increased air conditioning costs
- Decrease in home values

Ecological Impacts

- Loss of animal habitat
- Soil Erosion

What to do

- Develop public awareness campaign
- Review/modify ordinances
- Prioritize action plan
- Start treating high value ash trees

12 inches or less in diameter Purdue professor says “take it down”

12 inches or above in diameter keep and treat high value ash trees if it’s economically possible

SLAM Management Strategy is designed to slow the EAB invasion locally and gives land managers additional time to manage.

Slam 4 Main components

Illustrations:

1. Treatment during the Spring time via injection at the bottom of trunk
2. Soil drench (pesticides) there is no knowledge or data as to how it will affect the environment long term.
3. Vascular Spray

Questions/Concerns

Addressing the issue to mayors and administrators.

Time management is key as to when to tackle

Karl discusses the life of trees & partnership with local utilities

Biggest concern: Tiffany road

12 Ash trees on Tiffany road

About 14"-28" in diameter

Trees are fair to good from Rich's observation

Rich elaborates on the SLAM method

Could start the process in the fall planting

DPW can manage

15 mile Radius danger zone discussed

Insect flies ten miles a year. Once you are within that radius you need to step up the treatment to start an effective proactive approach.

Karl talks about the PR aspect to let the community know what's going on.

Population of ash trees not as bad in Morristown not counting parks. Rich mentioned that 15-mile radius found in Bridgewater and Bergen County.

Further discussions ensue as to other towns use of the wood from these trees.

Kristin makes a motion to vote on the acceptance of compensation for tree removal.

Candy seconds the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Candy: Yes

Michael: Yes

Karl: Yes

Deb: No

Kristen asked Deb to elaborate on vote. Deb response was that there isn't enough transparency on tree fund to vote at this time.

Rich talks about the pros and cons of various remuneration formulas:

Development

Sidewalk

Driveways

Motor vehicle accidents

Willful removal

Further discussion for having mercy for certain groups etc. Could use industry standards guidelines.

The standard replacement cost is \$900 will change nationwide for appraisals. Rich mentioned a \$200 per inch based on replacement costs. Further discussion among the group on another calculation that is a straightforward. Rich talks about a calculation used by the industry that gets very complicated and it is accepted nationwide. Further discussion of approved and non-approved removal of trees and how damages are assessed.

Voting for:
Approved removal
Non-approved removal

Note: valuation of \$200 per caliber inch.

It is agreed to adopt the industry standard for the tree valuation form.

Rich presented the spreadsheet for the tree appraisal formula.

Karl makes a motion to table the vote until Rich feels more comfortable on the figure for the valuation of trees.

Deb seconds it.

Further discussion by the group on not to table the vote.

Vote:
Candy: Yes
John: No
Michel: No
Karl: Yes
Kristen: Yes
Deb: No

Deadlocked.

Rich checks his calculation on his phone and feels comfortable with the figure.

Michael makes a motion to go with the \$200 valuation per caliber inch with the tree valuation assessment and this is for the approved removal of trees.

Karl seconds the motion.

Vote:

Candy: Yes

John: Yes

Karl: Yes

Deb: Yes

Michael: Yes

Kristen: Yes

Kristen makes a motion to vote for a method to value trees for punitive damages. Rich further elaborates on the standard that trees removed without prior approval will be valued via the industry guidelines promulgated by and instituted plant appraisals in accordance with ISA arboriculture.

Michael seconds the motion.

Vote:

Candy: Yes

John: Yes

Karl: Yes

Deb: Yes

Michael: Yes

Kristen: Yes

Next topic up for discussion is the CSIP grant and to vote on working with Acorn Hall. The grant can be used for community tree inventory, risk assessment etc.. The application deadline is 3/4/16.

Karl makes a motion for the initiation of the grant process

Deb seconds it.

Kristen talks about how Acorn Hall lost about 4 acres of trees during hurricane Sandy and they have a program to rebuild their forest. It's a good way for the STC to partner with the community. The key question is, Who's the owner of Acorn Hall? That could potentially affect the grant eligibility.

Vote:

Deb: Yes

Karl: Yes

John: Yes

Kristen: Yes

Candy: not present

The next topic of discussion was the bio char and what is the best approach for the tree wells. They are currently compacted right now. Confirmed by Rich and he thinks that they need to be aerated. To be further discussed at the March 8th meeting.

Meeting adjourned.