



West Newbury Tree Committee

Location: Remote on Zoom

Thursday February 15, 2024

Present: Fred Chanania, Chair; Kelly Scott, Secretary; Richard (Butch) Hills

Minutes

January Minutes	Tabled -no quorum
Status of Dead Roadway Ash Trees	Richard (butch) Hills gave an update on progress taking down dead/dying trees. All previously identified high hazard trees have been removed. He and Katelyn Barker have prioritized the areas for ash tree removal if and when the article for town meeting garners an additional \$50K for ash tree removal. The proposed FY2025 budget for tree removal has been increased from \$50K to \$100K pending approval at spring town meeting.
Status of Article for Spring Meeting	Select Board and Fin Comm approved the proposed article for \$50K for ash tree removal. Next step is to seek approval at spring town meeting.
Arbor Day	Planning continues and items for the giveaway have been ordered even with some snafus related to seedling orders for dogwoods; children's library program and potential tree walk are still to be arranged.
Beech Leaf Disease	Reminder that the decision was made to delay until spring the information going out to the general public advising them that the opinion of the TC is to await more scientific information about the effectiveness of any treatment program for infected beech trees. Also of note is the potential toxicity of certain nematicides on sensitive aquatic areas.
Other Updates and Ideas for Spring Activities	The private Chestnut Ridge tree ordering project is moving apace but there is no direct involvement of the TC itself.
Upcoming training opportunities	Fred will continue to present all opportunities to TC members via email.
Next Meeting	March 21, 2024 6:30 pm via zoom (new time)