

Elm Commission Meeting Minutes; 6PM on 27 May 2015; Corridor Walk Around

Attendees: Bill Calderwood, Denis Wagner and Mario Cardenas

1. Review, create and amend draft documents related to implementation of the tree planting policy (application, table for potential locations / species, map of town corridor with numbered locations and table for tracking planted memorial trees. Review red bordered map of town owned land. Amended tree policy places most decisions on the Tree Warden as that is where jurisdiction resides (amended draft v12 dated 1 May2015).
2. Walk the town corridor to discuss potential location / species to plant in future. A number of locations were discussed. Some locations are open and some are marginal or practically dead specimens that would be removed prior to planting. Need to walk corridor with Tree Warden to get his input and concurrence on:
  - a. Phair Elm common remove 2 trees first and then third Norway maple removed later— consider Acer Armstrong or Columnar Pin Oak as wires are an issue.
  - b. East of Unitarian Church 2 of 3 ash removed (leave best one up hill for now)—consider low story trees like the Fringe tree
  - c. Front of Unitarian: remove two Norway maples for view shed up and down common— consider two sugar maples to prepare area when large sugar maple needs to come down.
  - d. Flagpole area—eventually replace pears (prone to winter damage) with columnar crabapple or cherry
  - e. Need to remove lower limbs on sugar maples and Sycamore on main common.

Would need to logistically remove in advance of planting (forestry budget limitations?) as after tree is removed the stump needs grinding, material removed and replaced with loam, site new tree, procure correct tree and plant.

3. Review trees to plant this spring (includes a sugar maple adjacent to last year's first grade tree planting). Only planted first grade maple in 2015.
4. Discuss potential planting list given that no formal planting plan exists (lots of work to inventory and procure plans for all the spaces). One area at a time (like in item 2).
5. The old elm injection list was discussed after inspecting the trees. It was decided (3 of 3 vote) to stop injecting #33 and #3 (the Phair Elm) as it is wiser to invest in a healthier tree-- #19 which is next to Bromfield front (back of cemetery) will be injected in 2015. Whenever the Phair Elm is removed, it is proposed to move the Phair Memorial next to the Phair Elm backup (place in the ground flat for mower, but still readable). This is located on the corner of the same common— opposite the old library parking area.
6. Other areas reviewed for future work were HCTV area, north of library with new pines planted by library, along baseball field roadway (behind guard rail), high school front driveway (south side), elementary front (remove Linden...) and back side of elementary field invasive removal then plant.