


Town of Colchester Interoffice Memorandum

To: Mary Bylone, First Selectman
From: James Paggioli, Director of Public Works 
CC:
Date: February 26, 2020
Re: Town Owned Trees 2019-2020 Survey Results- Trees within Town Road Right of Ways Only

During a Board of Finance Meeting in December of 2019, a member of the Board raised a question regarding the Town of Colchester's potential financial exposure as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth infestations over the past few years, causing Ash Trees and Oak Trees to die due to these stressors. The issue has been a State wide concern and has been highlighted in various media formats.

In response to obtain accurate information regarding the issue, the Town's Tree Warden conducted a Town wide visual survey of those all trees within the Town Road right of ways that are the responsibility of the Town of Colchester to trim or remove. The survey results are attached herewith. The trees identified within the results were those that if the "fall" would impede the travel portion of the road or would damage electrical and communications lines; and that visually exhibited infestation, disease damage, or were already dead and still standing. It did not include those trees that are located along wooded areas that were likely to fall into adjacent vacant wooded areas.

As noted on the report, there are 692 trees that met the criteria for removal. Presently when tree services are utilized, they are contracted out and town staff provides support services. The insured contractor is required to utilize a bucket truck to perform the work safely and provides two personnel, a chipper and truck with container for the chipped material. The Town provides support in traffic control and machinery to move the larger sections of cut wood. The current price for the contracted service is \$1,500 per day. On average, 4 full sized trees are removed per day. It should be noted that "large diameter" trees and trees over 60 feet in height may take a single work day to address, and conversely smaller diameter and average to shorter trees require less time. Due to the variety of ages and species of trees and their relationship to the roadway and utility lines, no two tree removals are exactly the same.

As stated above there are 692 trees that require removal, at an average of 4 per day, and a cost of \$1,500 per day. This translates to a cost of \$259,500 or approximately \$260,000. $(692/4) \times 1500 = 259,500$. This work would take approximately 173 working days which is approximately 8 months of tree removal if conducted daily.

For historical purposes, within the past year, the Town has responded to 36 "tree down – blocking road" locations due to storm or wind conditions. Of the 36, only 2 were trees that were in the Town Road right of way. The vast majority have been privately owner trees that have fallen into the roadway. Most did not require the use of contracted services once the trees were on the ground /in the road.

The approved Town budget has increased the annual funding for tree contracted services over the past years budget from \$13,000 (FY 14-15) to \$18,000 (FY 15-16 thru FY 17-18) to \$25,000 (FY 18-19 to present). However the present to date spending for these services is \$32,400. These have been for those trees that had been on the previous year's list and to respond to "clear and present danger" situations as required by law and liability concerns.

Decision in how to best address the issue is a policy determined choice. The choice range from fully fund the removals over a single year; or use a 3 year time frame to conduct the work with the realization that there may be additional trees that required to be addressed due to conditions at that time (i.e. storm damage); or other non-proactive approaches that would maintain reactionary responses, be difficult to maintain budgetary control and may not be in the best public interest.

2019-20 Tree Survey

Windham Ave							
#100	3	across street from	Ash				
corner	2	sandy la	birch				
#248	2	clp pole #553	Ash				
#252	1		Ash				
#260	1		Maple				
#305	2		Ash				
#313	1	across street from	Maple				
#317	1		Maple				
#323	1	across street from	Ash				
#338	1		Maple				
#355	9	across street from	Ash				
#355	2	clp pole #5795	Ash				
#407	3		Ash				
#428	2	across street from	Maple				
#432	4	across street from	Ash				
#450	9	across street from	Ash				
town line	2	tree farm	Ash				
Rudden la							
intersection	2	intersection	cherry				
Jurach rd							
#12	1	BIG rt16	Ash				
#16	2	BIG rt16	Ash				
#71	4		Ash				
Harbor rd							
	7	left side	Ash				
#39	4		Ash				
#80	1	Big	Oak				
Haley							
#12	1		Oak				
Scott hill rd							
Town line	2		Maple				
Reservoir rd							
deadend	7	whole road	Maple				
Brainard rd							
#88	2		Ash				
Mahoney							
curve sign	1	stump	oak				
Chestnut hill							

intersection	3			ash				
#345	1			maple				
#293	2			ash				
#280	3			ash				
#256	1			maple				
#252	2			ash				
#236	1			maple				
palmer inter	1			maple				
#215	1			birch				
#169	4			ash				
#151	2		ash	maple				
#122	2		twin	maple				
pole#699	5	4ash		maple				
pole#5512	2		oak	ash				
#93	1			ash				
Palmer								
#21	2		birch	oak				
Stanavage rd								
#47	1			Oak				
Arts	2	DbI		maple				
#60	2		ash	maple				
indian res	2	dbl		maple				
#96	2		twin	maple				
#111	1			s Birch				
slow sign	1	BIG		Ash				
s corner	6	insde		Ash				
	1	outside		birch				
#136	4			Ash				
	2			cherry				
#140	2			cherry				
#143	3		???	maple				
#159	5	BIG		Ash				
#172	1			Ash				
Natalie	1			maple				
#211	1			maple				
#229	2			maple				
#233	1	BIG		Ash				
Kramer								
#77	1		silver	birch				
Pole #2821	1			maple				
#31	1		dead	maple				
#15	1	big	trim	oak				
Marvin rd								

pole #716	2		maple	cherry				
pole#715	4			Ash				
pole#713	5	1 big		Ash				
pole#714	5	1big	maple	Ash				
McDonald rd								
#53	3			Ash				
pole# 739	3	group of three		maple				
pole#358	4			maple				
pole#347	3			maple				
pole#741	2			maple				
fire pond	1			maple				
#295	2	oak/maple						
#271	1			oak				
pole#2327	2	clp call	big	Ash				
pole 1228	1			Ash				
#128	2		big	Ash				
cowen park	1			Pine				
Hominick								
#43	3			maple				
#52	1			maple				
Piekarz		paved						
#31	1			hickory				
#35	1	town side		maple				
#17	1			birch				
Nelkin rd								
by Beavers	1			cherry				
#103	2	Dbl		maple				
#132	1			oak				
Bulkeley hill								
across#129	2			Ash				
across #123	4			Ash				
#118	7			Ash				
#106	8			Ash				
#99	1			Ash				
across#168	3			Ash				
across #340	4	dead/dead		oak				
Taylor rd								
#223	2	twin		maple				
#219	2			cherry				
#202	13	bunch		ash				
#197	1	stump 15ft		oak				

#123	2	big	ash	birch				
#1	1	1000' from inter		ash				
School st								
across #36	2			maple				
open space	1			ash				
Old Hebron								
golf course	7		3cherry	4maple				
Miller rd								
rich Baldi	7			maple				
#39	1			ash				
#13	4			cherry				
Park rd								
#12	1			ash				
#26	4			ash				
#32	1			ash				
across#76	1			oak				
across#90	1			ash				
Old Hartford								
#548	1		huge	ash				
park inter	2		maple	ash				
#489	6			ash				
Prospect Hill								
#92	2		ash	cherry				
#94	2	maple (dead)		ash				
#100	1			big maple				
#112	1			maple				
#116	1			ash				
across#126	1		huge	ash				
across#146	4		cherry	maple				
across#166	1			ash				
#168	4		maple	ash				
#172	5		big	ash				
#185	4			cherry				
across#199	2			ash				
across#216	5		maple	ash				
end	3		1cherry	ash				
Cato corner								
#59	3			ash				
#30	1			ash				
across#27	1	behind power big		ash				

pole#2278	1			maple				
Standish rd								
across,skinner	1			ash				
swamp	6			maples				
#29	1			ash				
#37	1			shitum				
#49	1			ash				
across#64	1			ash				
across#70	3			ash				
#81	7		5ash	maple				
openspace	2	huge	ash	maple				
#80	2			ash				
#112	1			maple				
#122	2			ash				
#141	3			maple				
red sch int	1			maple				
Clark rd								
stop sign	1			ash				
open space	7			ash				
across#116	3			ash				
across#108	1			ash				
across Debi	1			maple				
across #96	3		big	maple				
#68	1		in drive	ash				
across#64	1			birch				
#56	6			maple				
Davidson rd								
across #134	2		stumps	maple				
#110	1			cherry				
across #104	1		big	maple				
across#90	1		huge	maple				
across#86	1			maple				
across#75	2			oak				
#66	2			maple				
across#66	3			maple				
#37	1		huge	maple				
#37	3		big	ash				
#33	1		huge	maple				
across#27	2		big	maple				
Cemetery rd								
#18	2		huge	ash				
across#28	7			ash				
across#46	3			ash				

across#55	3	cherry		maple				
#64	2		huge ash	maple				
#76	2			ash				
#80	1			ash				
Church st								
	1	huge		ash				
	6			ash				
Peck lane								
#39	4			ash				
across#45	5		3huge	ash				
#53	8			ash				
culdesac	1			ash				
Loomis								
#25	1		dead	maple				
#25	1			ash				
across#65	1			ash				
#65	3		1 shitem	maple				
Starr rd								
right side	8			ash				
Pickerel lake								
	4			ash				
#15	5			ash				
#30	3			ash				
#34	1			ash				
#39 ?	10			ash				
#43	1	huge		ash				
#49	1			ash				
#51	3			ash				
#54	4			ash				
top of dirt	2			ash				
#195	3			maple				
#200	3			ash				
#199	1			ash				
#215	4		maple	ash				
#223	6			ash				
across#228	3			ash				
#228	1	stop sign		ash				
Waterhole rd								
#190	4		maple	ash				
#186	2			ash				
#182	2			ash				

#156	2		ash				
#152	1		ash				
#148	4	oak	ash				
#134	3		ash				
#128	7		ash				
#114	4		ash				
#108	3		ash				
#72	4		ash				
#25	3	oak	ash				
Bigelow							
corner	1		ash				
waterway	1		ash				
across#79	2		ash				
#70	1	huge	ash				
across#70	3		ash				
parkside inter	3		ash				
across#60	2	maple	ash				
across#54	4		ash				
Victoria							
#9	1		ash				
Pinebrook rd							
pond	1		maple				
pole#2882	4		ash				
Shailor hill							
across#200	3		ash				
across#124	1		maple				
across#56	2		ash				
#19	1		ash				
shailor hill 2							
across#336	1		ash				
Comstock							
dickerson	1		ash				
Bullhill rd							
pole#2400	2		ash				
pole#2408	1		maple				
pole#2409	2		maple				
across#260	1		maple				
pole#5502	2		ash				
across#252	3		oak				
across#248	1		ash				

state trees	8		flagged	ash				
#219	6			ash				
#218	1			birch				
#204	1		huge	oak				
#191	1			maple				
#183	1			ash				
across#183	1			ash				
#155	3			ash				
#119	3	big		maple				
#91	5			ash				
#59	3	1big		ash				
across#59	1	big		ash				
across#23/19	8			ash				
#6	15			ash				
South rd								
river inter	1			ash				
#35	1			ash				
Fedus rd	20			ash				
	692							

692 TREES Avg 4 TRUNK/DAY @ \$1500/DAY = \$ 259500 or \$ 260,000