

## 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

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During a Board of Finance Meeting in December of 2019, a member of the Board raised an 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.



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				
<b>Palmer</b>								
#21	2		birch	oak				
<b>Stanavage rd</b>								
#47	1			Oak				
Arts	2	Dbl		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				
<b>Natalie</b>	1			maple				
#211	1			maple				
#229	2			maple				
#233	1	BIG		Ash				
<b>Kramer</b>								
#77	1		silver	birch				
Pole #2821	1			maple				
#31	1		dead	maple				
#15	1	big	trim	oak				
<b>Marvin rd</b>								

pole #716	2		maple	cherry				
pole#715	4			Ash				
pole#713	5	1 big		Ash				
pole#714	5	1big	maple	Ash				
<b>McDonald rd</b>								
#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				
<b>Hominick</b>								
#43	3			maple				
#52	1			maple				
<b>Piekarz</b>		paved						
#31	1			hickory				
#35	1	town side		maple				
#17	1			birch				
<b>Nelkin rd</b>								
by Beavers	1			cherry				
#103	2	Dbl		maple				
#132	1			oak				
<b>Bulkeley hill</b>								
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				
<b>Taylor rd</b>								
#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			
<b>School st</b>							
across #36	2			maple			
open space	1			ash			
<b>Old Hebron</b>							
golf course	7		3cherry	4maple			
<b>Miller rd</b>							
rich Baldi	7			maple			
#39	1			ash			
#13	4			cherry			
<b>Park rd</b>							
#12	1			ash			
#26	4			ash			
#32	1			ash			
across#76	1			oak			
across#90	1			ash			
<b>Old Hartford</b>							
#548	1		huge	ash			
park inter	2		maple	ash			
#489	6			ash			
<b>Prospect Hill</b>							
#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			
<b>Cato corner</b>							
#59	3			ash			
#30	1			ash			
across#27	1	behind power big		ash			

pole#2278	1			maple				
<b>Standish rd</b>								
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				
<b>Clark rd</b>								
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				
<b>Davidson rd</b>								
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#22	2		big	maple				
<b>Cemetery rd</b>								
#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				
<b>Church st</b>								
	1	huge		ash				
	6			ash				
<b>Peck lane</b>								
#39	4			ash				
across#45	5		3huge	ash				
#53	8			ash				
culdesac	1			ash				
<b>Loomis</b>								
#25	1		dead	maple				
#25	1			ash				
across#65	1			ash				
#65	3		1 shitem	maple				
<b>Starr rd</b>								
right side	8			ash				
<b>Pickrel lake</b>								
	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	stopsign		ash				
<b>Waterhole rd</b>								
#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				
<b>Bigelow</b>							
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				
<b>Victoria</b>							
#9	1		ash				
<b>Pinebrook rd</b>							
pond	1		maple				
pole#2882	4		ash				
<b>Shailor hill</b>							
across#200	3		ash				
across#124	1		maple				
across#56	2		ash				
#19	1		ash				
<b>shailor hill 2</b>							
across#336	1		ash				
<b>Comstock</b>							
dickerson	1		ash				
<b>Bullhill rd</b>							
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/ <del>e</del> <b>Trail</b>	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				
<b>South rd</b>								
river inter	1			ash				
#35	1			ash				
<b>Fedus rd</b>	20			ash				
	692							

692 TREES Avg 4 Trees/Day @ \$1500/Day = \$ 259500 or \$ 260,000.