

## DRAFT EAB plan for Northfield, Vermont

A wide range of activities are suggested. They are as follows:

### Education

- The Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC) held a public forum on August 21, led by State and UVM specialist Meredith Whitney and Northfield tree warden and forester Russ Barrett . 24 people attended.
- NCC sponsored a public training focused on Northfield Boy Scouts in ash tree identification, led by Russ Barrett. 14 attended.
- Another follow-up training may be held this fall or in the spring.
- “Don’t Carry Firewood” Posters have been put up around town.
- We have put several notices on Front Porch Forum and plan to continue putting up educational material.
- EAB was part of Northfield tables at the September 18 farmer’s market and then Night on the Common. A table is planned for Town Meeting Day in March.
- Pam Knox, NCC chair, has plans for EAB education this year with 4<sup>th</sup> graders. (The school library has a wealth of books on invasive insects and trees from a previous NCC grant from Forest Parks & Recreation).
- Another forum and brainstorming, directed at highway crews, utilities, landscapers, and forest products personnel is suggested.
- A library exhibit is suggested.
- NCC would like permission to tie flagging around ash trees on one section of back road to show what damage is likely to our landscape.

### Need for Inventory

- Approximately 5 years ago, LANDS (from UVM) did a windshield ash survey of 10% of Northfield roads – 10 mile sections of Turkey Hill, Union Brook, and 12A
- Our tree warden has surveyed the village center and there are, luckily, few ash trees.
- We could greatly benefit from an inventory in the town forest, Northfield Falls, South Northfield, school forest, cemeteries, railroad right-f-way and other core streets in town.
- Need for an inventory of right-of-way ash trees, and recommendations for the highway department and land owners about a surveillance and cutting plan. Controversial: Would it be feasible to consider offering to take down ash trees for free now in the public right-of-way, but if they/when they later become infected, it will be the landowner’s legal responsibility to take them down?
- Main trails of the town forest should be inventoried for ash trees that need to be watched. Perhaps these could be flagged.

### Village Center Trees

- There are some key ash trees at the Gold Star Memorial. We would like an understanding from Norwich that they will care for those trees.
- There are 3 green ash on the green between the Senior Center and the Police Department. We suggest a small project to plant 2 young trees, one each between 2 of the trees, so that they can

begin to grow, until such time that the green ash become infected and need to come down. This way, there not be a lack of growing trees there. (2 dying maples have recently been cut from that square and should be replaced at the same time.) The Boy Scouts have volunteered to do the planting. We'd like to look toward the Rotary or another group to supply 4 trees.

#### Northfield Schools

- Northfield schools should inventory ash trees around the school and in the school forest and make a management plan.

#### Town Forest

- Consulting forester Rose Beatty should be asked to update the town forest management plan, and focus on the best timing for cutting and timber sales. There are valuable ash trees in the town forest. There is an estimated \$40,000-\$50,000 to be made from a timber sale.
- Surveillance of ash trees along main trails, so as to protect public safety.

#### Wood Disposal

- The town needs to make a plan, for Northfield or in conjunction with other towns, for a wood disposal site, for when infected ash trees are taken down.

#### Surveillance

- A plan is needed for on-going surveillance of town roads, to ID ash trees that may be infected.

#### Questions for Danielle:

- How to access plans of other municipalities?
- Are there grant funds for inventories?

#### Questions for others

#### Bill DeVos:

- Is Northfield committed to inoculating the ash trees at the Gold Star Memorial?
- Is there an ash tree inventory for Norwich property? Main campus? Forested areas?
- Is there a plan that Norwich has to increase surveillance on the health of its ash trees?

#### Sherrie Brickey

- Can NCC have an exhibit in the library on EAB? Is there an enclosed glass cabinet available?

#### Northfield News

- Can we share a column each week from the Vermont Invasives website?

#### Rotary

- Would you supply 4 trees for the green area between the Police Department and the Senior Center?

Rose Beatty

- When can you update the town forest timber management plan?

Snapping Turtle

- Any plans for a wood disposal site for affected ash wood?

Registered tree inoculators:

- Could we get a reduced group rate for a group of landowners?

Luke Foley:

- Could there be an inventory of the school forest? Would they be interested in flagging ash trees in the school forest?

Budget Needed:

**Proposed Timeline:** October 1, 2018-October 1, 2019

**Prior to October 2018:**

- Approximately 5 years ago: LANDS (from UVM) windshield ash survey of 10% of Northfield roads – 10 miles including sections of Turkey Hill, Union Brook, and 12 A. Extrapolated: approximately 14,500 ash tree in right-of-way.
- Approximately 5 years ago: State grant to do an invasive insect unit with 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Northfield Elementary, poster contest, and buy relevant books for school library.
- August 21, 2018: Public forum led by State and UVM specialist Meredith Whitney and Northfield tree warden and forester Russ Barrett. 24 people attended.
- Tree warden survey of public ash trees in downtown. Luckily there are just a few.
- August 26, 2018: public training focused on Northfield Boy Scouts in ash tree identification, led by Russ Barret. 14 people attended.
- Don't Carry Firewood posters around town
- Notices on Front Porch Forum of educational material
- September 18, 2018: Farmer's Market and Night on the Common Table
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**October 2018:**

- Meet with Jeff (Barrett and Ruttenberg)
  - Wood disposal site for infected wood – Discuss with Jeff
  - Plan for Gold Star Memorial ash trees – Discuss with Jeff and Norwich
  - Developing a town plan for on-going surveillance of town roads, to ID ash trees that may be infected – Discuss with Jeff
  - Need to update the town forest timber management plan, and where in the budget the proceeds go – Discuss with Jeff
  - Plan for ash trees along back roads where tree cutting is on-going: Discuss with Jeff
  - Any grant funding applied for?
- Discuss library exhibit with Sherri Brickey (Ruttenberg)
- ID area of Northfield to flag ash trees (Barrett) and discuss with Jeff
- Develop a media plan: Ruttenberg and Zuaro
- Norwich ash tree survey – Barrett to discuss with DeVos/ also Gold Star memorial and on-going surveillance
- Find out what other towns are doing – Ruttenberg
- Explore possible grant funds – Ruttenberg with Fitzko

**November 2018:**

- Could we be ready to discuss a plan with Selectboard before Russ leaves for the winter?  
Selectboard actions needed:
  - Any grant applications
  - 3 ash trees by fire department
  - Gold Star Memorial

- Updating the Town Forest Timber Management Plan
- Policy on ash trees along back road rights-of-way
- Wood disposal site
- On-going surveillance
- Training needed for highway department?
- Any needed activity at cemetery, schools?
- Discuss 3 green ash between Fire Department and Senior Center -- and plan to plant 2 new trees between the 3, to get them started until the ash are infected. Rotary to supply trees? Boy Scouts have volunteered to plant them.
- Discuss with Northfield Schools: inventory of school forest/flagging trees in town forest/unit on EAB for 4<sup>th</sup> graders (Knox)
- Begin NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF– Zuaro and Ruttenberg with Kruikshank
- Another forum and brainstorming, directed at highway crews, utilities, landscapers, and forest products personnel

#### December 2018:

- Plan for surveillance of ash trees along main trains of town forest: NCC
- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF
- Discussion with companies that inoculate trees
- Replenish EAB materials in Town Office

#### January 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF

#### February 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF

#### March 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF
- NCC table at Town Meeting Day
- Have new posters from 4<sup>th</sup> graders up in storefronts (in advance of the bugs starting to fly in the spring)

#### April 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF
- Another ash tree ID training with the Boy Scouts
- Public forum on EAB
- Replenish EAB materials in Town Office

#### May 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF
- Tree inventory of Northfield Falls, South Northfield, cemeteries, core streets, railway right-of-way

June 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF

July 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF

August 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF
- Replenish EAB materials in Town Office

September 2019:

- Continuing NCC “column” for Northfield News and FPF