

**Mark Dillenbeck
Tree Warden
Charlotte, VT 05445**

March 8, 2018

«Salutation» «First_Name_Proper» «Last_NameProper»
«Mailing_Proper»
«Town_Proper», «State» «Zip»

RE: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF ASH TREES ON LAKE ROAD BETWEEN THOMPSON'S POINT ROAD & FERRY ROAD MARCH 18, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M. AT CHARLOTTE TOWN HALL 159 Ferry Road

Dear «Salutation» «Last_NameProper»:

Hopefully you have followed the news and are aware of the threat posed by the emerald ash borer (EAB). This exotic pest was first discovered near Detroit in 2002 and had been steadily expanding its range throughout the US and Canada. It was discovered last year in several locations in Vermont and will eventually arrive in our town. It may indeed already be here. EAB is native to China and Siberia and has almost no resistance in our part of the world. As a result very close to 100% of ash trees will die in the near future. The unfortunate reality is that we are soon going to have to deal with a great number of dead ash trees.

Most ash trees in our town will be left to safely die in place. Trees that pose a hazard to roads or infrastructure need to be dealt with, however. If we are not proactive, then we will eventually be dealing with a large number of dead ash trees falling on our roads at random times. One particular feature of the challenge posed by EAB is that because of the wood structure of ash, EAB killed ash trees are difficult and hazardous for chainsaw operators to work with and are therefore more expensive to fell than live trees.

In order to ensure public safety and to minimize cost to the town, many towns, including Charlotte, are opting to preemptively remove ash trees that are currently alive. This will prevent the problem of large numbers of dead trees falling on our roads and the hazards that could result. It will allow the town to spread costs over a longer time period and will result in overall cost savings of approximately 50% compared to the expense of removing dead trees as they fall into our roads.

The only way to preserve ash trees is to chemically treat them at cost of approximately \$125-\$400/tree. These treatment need to be repeated every two years for the life of the tree. Some landowners will opt to save trees through treatment and we encourage this. If landowners wish to keep trees that are in the right of way by having them treated with insecticides, then those trees will be omitted from the cutting program.

If you have questions or concerns, or wish to know more about the Lake Road ash tree removal project, then I encourage you to attend the hearing at the Town Hall at 7:00 on March 18th.

Best Regards,



Mark Dillenbeck
Tree Warden