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Town of Shaftsbury

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Emerald Ash Borer Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 9-11-2025

Attending: Naomi Miller, Select Board Representative; Arther Whitman, Co-Chair; David Mance III, Tree Warden, Co-Chair; Charlie Jenks, Tree Expertise; Denny Browe, Tree Expertise; and Cinda Morse, Community Outreach/Organization.

The meeting of the EAB Committee was called to order at 6:00pm by Art.

No Conflict of Interest was identified by members present.

The Minutes of 8-28-25 were unanimously approved in a motion made by Charlie and seconded by Denny. Members of the committee introduced themselves followed by some general discussion of the purpose and duties of the committee.

Discussion of EAB Committee Mission: A draft Mission Statement was reviewed in detail. It was agreed that Cinda would draft a second version for review at the next meeting.

After a wide-ranging discussion the committee agreed that accomplishing the goal of removing hazardous trees from the public right-of-way is complicated and will have a learning curve for all of us. It was agreed that Maple Hill Road would be our focus for the coming winter season as it has a large concentration of already identified dangerous trees.

Tree Cutting Policy and Public Awareness: The committee agreed that it is important that the community be informed in a timely and effective manner about tree removal. Equally important is that it be clear in all communications with the community that this project is moving forward and is not up for debate. Hazardous trees will be removed in the public right-of-way.

General communication about this project will be posted on the Town's website and an article in the Banner. Both resident and non-resident property owners will be notified by registered letter and likely a site visit. The committee feels that this is our responsibility so that the Road Crew can focus on the work at hand.

Marking of Trees: Trees along Maple Hill Road have been inventoried. When work begins, trees will be marked with paint or ribbon.

Managing Cut Trees: Property owners will be offered the trees along their property. Where possible trees will be left off road (and out of ditches) to rot or taken by wood fairies. The Career Development Center (Eric Bishop) will process wood. Lots of unknowns arose at this point in the discussion including:

- Where to put removed logs
- What to do with brush – possible collaboration with Electric Co, costs for chipping, availability of equipment
- Art will follow up with Road Forman re equipment needs and availability

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 in a motion made by Charlie seconded by Denny.

Next Meeting: September 25th 5:00pm a site visit for Maple Hill Road starting at the Fire House on Old Depot Road. 6:00pm Regular Meeting at Cole Hall.

