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Town of Shaftsbury

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Emerald Ash Borer Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 25, 2025

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

A 5:00 pm site visit was made to Old Depot Road/lower Maple Hill road to assess the general issues associated with this project of removing ash trees and other hazardous trees from the public right-of-way prior to the meeting.

The meeting of the EAB Committee was called to order at 6:02pm by Art.

No Conflict of Interest was identified by members present.

The Minutes of 9-11-25 were unanimously approved as amended in a motion made by Charlie and seconded by Denny. Second sentence in second paragraph under Tree Cutting Policy and Public Awareness now reads: Both non-reachable resident and all non-resident property owners will be notified by a registered letter and if possible a site visit.

Discussion of EAB Committee Mission: A second draft of the Mission Statement was reviewed. Two edits were made. The edited mission statement was unanimously approved in a motion made by Cinda and seconded by Charlie.

Next Steps: A discussion of our next steps led to the following outline:

- **Identify the initial roadsides to be targeted.** We agreed to target an area that we can complete without additional resources and chose Jack Cross Road to Cider Mill Road.
- **Inventory Trees to be removed:** Dave has the inventories already completed. We will review to make sure this section has been completed.
- **Identify and inform property owners in the targeted area:** Naomi will assemble a list of property owners. Cinda and Naomi will draft a letter for committee review that offers a face to face meeting on site. If we don't hear from property owner, send a registered letter.
- **Meet with property owners:** At least two committee members attend these meetings.
- **Mark, Cut Trees, and clean up:** The DPW and such other professional help as needed will complete this task leaving roadsides tidy.
- **Yet to be decided:** Where logs not wanted by property owners will go – Town garage if adequate area as determined by DPW, and management/distribution of processed wood to Shaftsbury residents.

Timeline: This is up to DPW but late fall early winter is anticipated at this time.

Equipment and Cost: There is currently 22K in the tree removal budget which should cover any professional assistance or equipment rental (eq man-lift) needed this winter for the targeted area. Our

current chipper is old and should be replaced as we take on this large tree removal project. Estimated cost of new chipper 50K – 60K.

Winter 25-26 Plan Presentation to Select Board: Target is October 30.

Next Meeting: October 9th and then October 23rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Morse

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.