Town of Shaftsbury, VT

Emerald Ash Borer Committee Minutes

October 13, 2026

Attending: Dave Mance Jr, Tree Warden and Co-Chair; Art Whitman, Co-Chair; Naomi Miller, Select Board; Charlie Jenks, Tree Expertise; Denny Browe, Tree Expertise; Cinda Morse, Community Member; and Tim Gulley, Shaftsbury Highway Foreman.

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair David Mance at 6:30. The only agenda item was reviewing the seven(7) received bids for the tree removal on a section of Maple Hill Road.

At 6:32 in a unanimous motion made by Art and seconded by Charlie, the committee went into executive session to review bids. Once in executive session the committee had a discussion of Conflict of Interest which should have occurred in open session. While some members of the Committee knew some of the bidders and/or had had work done by 2 of the local bidders, no conflicts required recusal in this case according to Shaftsbury's Conflict of Interest Policy.

At 7:04 in a unanimous motion made by Cinda and seconded by Art, the Committee came out of executive session.

In a unanimous motion made by Charlie and seconded by Tim, the Committee recommends to the Shaftsbury Select Board that the contract go to James Hawley of Hawley's Grading & Land Clearing from Arlington assuming proof of insurance is provided and references are positive. Art will check references and the Town Administrator will be asked to verify insurance. This recommendation is expected to go to the Select Board on Monday, October 19, 2026.